

gazette

VOL. XIII No. 1

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha (GOARC)

January 1981

1980—YEAR OF TRANSITION

Because 1980 has been a year of transition, and change, for the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC), I would like to report to you what sorts of changes have been made, give you some idea of the work of the ARC over the past 12 months, and indicate some new directions for 1981.

The work of the ARC is generally divided into six program areas. Two relate to the internal operations of the Association - Management and General, and Fund Raising. Four relate to the working programs of the Association - Advocacy, Family Support, Public Education, and Volunteerism.

MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL

1980 was certainly a year in which the internal operations of the ARC office underwent a number of changes.

We began in 1980 with eight staff people (six full-time and two part-time). As we move in 1981 we have only four staff people (all full-time). While reduced in numbers, the current staff has no match in enthusiasm and dedication to the ARC, and this enthusiasm and dedication are reflected below, in each of the program areas.

For those of you who do not know the present staff, I would like to make a brief introduction. Dena Launderville is our Secretary/Fiscal Clerk. In September, 1980, Dena started her third year with the ARC making her our "old hand". Mary Magnuson began as our part-time secretary. In August, 1980, she moved to the full-time position of Staff Assistant. Janet Ansell, a former member of both the GOARC and CARC Boards of Directors, joined the staff as the full-time coordinator of the Family Support Program in September, 1980. The Family Support Program includes Pilot Parents. Dan Costello moved from Assistant Executive Director to Executive Director with the resignation of Chuck Tressler in July.

Because of cutbacks in income, we reduced the size of our office space by several hundred square feet in 1980. At its November meeting the Executive Committee supported a motion calling for a feasibility study of a permanent location for the ARC office - through either

purchase or construction of our own building. Pending the outcome of this study, we have made plans to reduce our rental space by another 1,500 square feet, but to remain at our present location, temporarily.

1980 did see the end of the Developmental Disabilities Ombudsperson Grant, and the last CETA placement for what appears to be a long time (except for summer youth placements). While the termination of grants, which totalled hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past several years, had substantial negative impact on programs and continuity, the search continues for sources of Federal and State income which would be appropriate for the present scope and mission of the ARC.

FUND-RAISING

Fund-raising efforts in 1980 fell far short of producing the income needed to avoid the cutbacks outlined above. At the same time, however, Honey Sunday 1980 was a record-breaking year with an expected net income to the ARC of over \$13,000.

A volunteer Fund Raising Committee has been at work for several months now to develop a concentrated fund-raising calendar for 1981. There has been a significant volunteer interest in the area of fund-raising over the past months, and it is hoped that this interest will be translated into a coherent and stable fund-raising base over the next year. Any reader interested in working with the Fund Raising Committee should contact Mary or Janet at 348-9220.

ADVOCACY

The aim of the ARC's Advocacy Program is to insure that the persons in the Omaha and Bellevue areas, and the surrounding communities, who have mental retardation, are treated with the respect, dignity, and protection which is due all persons, regardless of handicap or degree of handicap; and to insure that any special services which persons with mental retardation may need are provided as a public responsibility, in a manner consistent with individual requirements and standards of human dignity.

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ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report Cont. from p. 1

Historically, the Advocacy Program emphasized the "introduction of legislation" to address systemic advocacy issues, and the "investigation of complaints" to address personal advocacy, or case issues.

1980 was a year of transition for the Advocacy Program. The overall effect was to move away from highly technical and specialized approaches to advocacy, like the Ombudsperson, to broader, more general, and more comprehensive advocacy. This transition was facilitated by two events. First, the Board of Directors appointed a Planning Committee to clarify the Association's focus. The report of the Planning Committee, adopted at the July meeting of the Board, identified three goals which should guide the ARC's focus:

- 1) To promote and insure a continuum of services for people with mental retardation. The services must be comprehensive and appropriate.
- 2) To promote and insure a continuum of services for the parents and families of people with mental retardation. The services must be comprehensive and appropriate.
- 3) To create a positive climate of public support, awareness, and acceptance for all people with mental retardation.

These three goals effectively mandated a broadened scope for the Advocacy Program. Second, the co-funding of the Ombudsperson by the State Developmental Disabilities Council ended on March 31, 1980. Funds were not available to make a transition to place the Ombudsperson on the ARC's staff. With the loss of this specialist, the focus of the Advocacy Program broadened naturally.

The Advocacy Program, as it is structured at the present time, encompasses a broad range of activities. The ARC Speakers Bureau, the Advocacy Network, and varied Public Service Announcements all advocate for changes in the public perception of people with mental retardation, and continue to inform the public of the major issues confronting those interested in mental retardation. The Speakers Bureau has over 35 speakers available to speak on a variety of topics. To arrange for a speaker, please call Mary at 348-9220. The Advocacy Network has expanded our ability to distribute information over 1,000% in the last four months. The GAZETTE, and other ARC materials, are now mailed to over 3,000 households a month. We are currently adapting TV spots distributed by our National ARC office. They should begin to run in January, 1981.

The interests of persons with mental retardation, and their families, are represented by, and advocated for, through the ARC's active participation on: the Mayor's Committee on the Handicapped; the ENCOR Human and Legal Rights Committee, the ENCOR Advisory Committee (if that Committee ever becomes a reality), the Region VI Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Nebraska Human Service Consortium; and by the ARC's monitoring of the ENHSA Board of Directors. Literally hundreds of staff and volunteer hours have

been spent on this "representational" advocacy over the past year.

The quality of services for persons with mental retardation will be monitored by volunteer task forces of the ARC. Both a vocational and residential monitoring team are in place with the first training sessions and site visits scheduled for January and February, 1981. The Industrial Training Center in the South Douglas Area has been selected as the first vocational monitoring site. If you or a family member have had difficulties in residential or vocational services which you feel should come to the attention of a monitoring team, or if you wish to volunteer for a monitoring team, please call Dan at 348-9220.

Aspects of advocacy through legislative change are generally carried out by the ARC through its active participation on the Governmental Affairs Committee of the State ARC. Legislative priorities for 1981 include: limited guardianship, the inclusion of prevention in education curricula, in-home support, and appropriations/expanded services. Governmental affairs is expected to be of particular importance in the struggle for expanded services (see below).

As I mentioned above, through April of 1981, the Advocacy Program included an Ombudsperson on staff, who sought to insure access to services, and the exercise of rights, by persons with mental retardation and their families. With the departure of the Ombudsperson, the ARC turns more frequently to those agencies with a specialization in these areas (Nebraska Advocacy Services, Legal Aid, etc.). If any of our readers wish information on how to contact one of these agencies they should call the office.

In addition to these advocacy efforts for people with mental retardation and their families, the ARC advocates with people with mental retardation through the work of Project II. Project II members advocate on their own behalf, and have become national and international spokespersons for the dignity and rights of persons with mental retardation. Project II was active in the development and presentation of a third annual People First Convention this year, and we would expect another annual convention next year. Project II was also active in advocacy on the issue of abuse at the Beatrice State Home, and introduced local political figures to the realities of institutions. After the staggering loss of Ray Loomis in 1979, Project II has continued to represent the growing trend towards self-advocacy with vigorous and dedicated tenacity.

The program elements which are outlined above represent the on-going elements of the Advocacy Program. In addition to these permanent features of the Program, there are two special projects which will be of importance to the look of the ARC in 1981.

The first of these special projects is a vocational "brainstorming" group which grew out of the monitoring of the ENHSA Board. A group of volunteers has met, and will continue to meet in 1981, with the express purpose of developing alternatives to the present vocational structure of ENCOR. These alternatives, it is hoped, will introduce some innovative and imaginative changes into the vocational programs as they now exist. We hope to have the results of the "brainstorming" published by early March, 1981.

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"There is a real fear that the failure to expand programs over this and the coming fiscal year will lead to waiting lists of unimaginable proportions"

The second, and most ambitious, special advocacy project which began in 1980 is the struggle for expanded community services through the Expanded Services Task Force. The Expanded Services Task Force will attempt to build the legislative support necessary for the true expansion of community programs. There is a real fear that the failure to expand programs over this and the coming fiscal year will lead to waiting lists of unimaginable proportions. We calculate that over 130 people will be on waiting lists for services at the end of the 81-82 fiscal year, if changes are not made. Activities of the Task Force to date have included an initial meeting of parents, the preparation of the Expanded Services Fact Sheet, and the initial phases of the 1981 lobbying effort.

Any reader who would like more information about these special projects, or would like to volunteer to work in one of these areas should contact Dan at 348-9220.

We truly hope to be able to expand the focus of the Advocacy Program with the addition of an Advocacy Coordinator in 1981, but that will depend on our ability to become more financially stable.

FAMILY SUPPORT

The Family Support Program (or as it known in the United Way Terminology - the Individual and Family Life Program Development Program), at present combines two elements. The first is Pilot Parents. Most of the readers of the GAZETTE are familiar with the Pilot Parents as they have been a part of the ARC for almost 10 years. 37 families are presently available as Pilot Parents. The program also provides support to a number of families who do not move on to a Pilot Parent/Piloted Parent relationship, but whose needs can be met with information and referral. The grant for the Pilot Parent model which enabled the ARC to spread the word of Pilot Parents over a four-state region ended in late 1979. The focus of the Pilot Parents was then turned back into the Omaha community. After undergoing a "slump", which I feel was generated by the well-publicized loss of the grant, this element of the Family Support Program has never been better. Referrals continue to come into the office at a rate double that of six months ago. After a year without training, over 12 families have signed up for training scheduled to begin January 5th. While the focus is no longer officially on "outreach", the coordinator continues to receive requests for information from around the world. The Pilot Parents of the ARC, in cooperation with MCRI sponsored an International Conference for parents in June, 1980. 17 states and Canada were represented. Pilot Parents also is in the process of having information translated into Spanish in a continuing effort to do minority outreach within the Omaha community.

The second element currently in the Family Support

Program is the youth group - GOYARC. With the loss of a key advisor (Pat Henry) in 1979, the youth group had remained relatively small until the recruitment of a new advisor this year. Paul Feilmann, and his dedicated core of young volunteers, has begun the re-growth process. GOYARC members have been actively participating in monthly planning and social events. Included this year have been a trip to the Iowa State Institution at Glenwood, teen dances, soccer games, and the participation in a number of other events. With the addition of a full-time coordinator, it is hoped that the youth group will continue to expand in 1981.

Two areas of expansion are projected for this Family Support Program in 1981. First, there is a need, presently unmet, for parent support in those families where the mentally retarded son or daughter is reaching young adulthood. The primary focus of Pilot Parents is the child at diagnosis of handicap. The family with an older handicapped person has a far different set of needs for emotional support and information sharing. It is one of the priorities of the Program to develop such a support network over the coming year.

The other developmental area for the Family Support Program, is the need for assistance in the preparation and presentation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs). We hope to train a team of volunteers in the intricacies of IEPs who will be available to any family who requests assistance.

If any reader is interested in either of these developmental programs, they should contact Janet, the Program Coordinator, at 348-9220.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The purpose of the Public Education Program is to inform people. (Whereas the purpose of the Advocacy Program is both to inform and change minds!). During 1980, the ARC sponsored a number of Public Education Forums including a series on the transition to Area Management, and a presentation by Bob Perske on the relationship between neighbors and people with mental retardation who live in their neighborhoods. The Resource Room which was opened in September, contains thousands of books, brochures, magazines, and leaflets on people with mental retardation, and the field of mental retardation. The Resource Room is open to the public during regular office hours. Much of the material can be taken home. The latest addition to the Resource Room is a package of rights information designed for people with mental retardation which was purchased during the Ombudsperson Grant.

VOLUNTEERISM

The Volunteerism Program is designed to recognize the importance of volunteers to the overall operation of the Association. The Program began in 1980 with a

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coordinator, but ended with the realization that we could not support a coordinator specifically for this program alone. Responsibility for the recruitment and training of volunteers is now spread among the entire staff. Heavy participation by other volunteers in this program helped the ARC to present general membership meetings, an annual election, and Awards Night as a part of this program.

As you can see, although it has been done at times in a quiet and unpublic manner, the ARC has been very active over the past 12 months. In the last year over 30% of our membership has been "new" members. An indication, I believe, that we are continuing to reach out to those in the community with a concern or interest in people with mental retardation.

I also believe, that 1980 was a year in which we sought, and received, much more input on needs and concerns from both the general community and our ARC members. The inclusion of a "For Members Only" section in the GAZETTE is another indication of our attempts to keep our members informed and a part of the ARC. In 1981, I hope that the process will continue, with increased participation by a broad section of our friends and members in the work of the ARC — and in the decision-making which defines that work.

I hope that this report has given all of our readers a glimpse of the shape of the ARC over the past year, and the shape of things to come for 1981.

"COMING UP"

- 2/2 Residential Monitoring Teams Mtg.
7:30 at GOARC OFFICE
- 2/3 PILOT PARENTS TRAINING SESSION **
"Disabilities"
- 2/5 Fundraising Committee Mtg. 7:30
- 2/7 GAZETTE Articles Due
- 2/9 "Parents Sharing Night" **
- 2/10 Adult Services/Admin. Services
Committee Meetings 7:30 GOARC
- 2/14 GOYARC Activity
- 2/16 "How Parents Help One Another" **
- 2/17 Board Meeting 7:30
- 2/19 Region VI DD Council Meeting
- 2/20 Project II Meeting
- 2/23 "Pilot Parenting Skills" **
- 2/27 Parent Training Seminar
- 2/28 GOYARC Activity

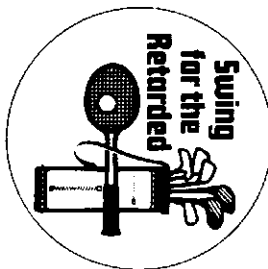
TRAINING SEMINAR

A Parent Training Seminar will be held on February 27, 28, and March 1 at the Boystown Continuing Learning Center.

The seminar, sponsored by MCRI, UNMC, and the Nebraska D.D. Council, will be directed toward making parents more powerful advocates, and making professionals more aware of parents' needs so they may work more effectively as a team.

For more information please contact Mary Magnuson at 348-9220.

This issue compliments of Swing for the Retarded



GOARC
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68131

The Greater Omaha Association for Retarded
Citizens is a United Way Agency



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march is membership month

FOR MEMBERS ONLY...

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The January Board of Directors' Meeting was held on January 20th at the W. Dale Clark Library downtown. The Board took the following actions:

1) The firm of Moeller, McPherrren, & Judd was approved as the auditor for FY 1980.

2) The Board supported an ARC Nebraska resolution which states:

"Be it resolved that the ARC Nebraska calls upon the Director of the Department of Public Institutions to not block community placements when:

- a) An appropriate placement is available.
- b) Community and institutional staff agree placement is appropriate.
- c) The objecting party or parties have used normal due process appeals procedures as provided by DPI and have not been supported. Be it further resolved that this association convey its position to Mr. Michner and take all reasonable steps to insure that this position is adopted and implemented by the State of Nebraska."

3) A second ARC Nebraska motion which reads:

"Be it resolved that the Association for Retarded Citizens of Nebraska strongly opposes the establishment of private, competing community residential and vocational programs for mentally retarded citizens.

And be it further resolved that this Association shall continue to work to advocate for the highest quality system of regional community based mental retardation services.

And be it further resolved that the ARC-Nebraska convey this position to the Governor and the Director of the Department of Public Institutions and take all reasonable steps to insure that this policy is adopted as the policy of the State of Nebraska."

was forwarded to the appropriate committee for further study.

4) The Board approved a motion to renew the lease for our present office space for an additional year - with a substantial reduction in square footage. (This action was by phone ballot 1/12/81).

5) The Board adopted an amendment in the ARC By-laws to effect the following change. The Standing Committees are changed to Administrative Services, Vocational Services, Residential Services and Educational Services. This replaces the present Standing Committees of Administrative Services, Membership Support, Adult Services and Childrens Services. For a description of the role of these committees please refer to the Nomination Profile which is also included in this GAZETTE.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

- 6) The Board adopted a resolution expressing concern over a proposal to tape individual children with disabilities and air those tapes over Channel 7 TV on a regular program called "Wednesday's Child" in an attempt to find foster or adoptive placements for those children.
- 7) The Board approved a resolution that the ARC become the sponsoring agency for the Region VI Developmental Disabilities Council.
- 8) The Board unanimously accepted three Board replacements: Gary Fischer, Jim Brentlinger, and Thomas Lee. The Board also approved the move of Tom Kodera from the Children's Services Committee to the position of Treasurer.
- 9) The Board approved the following members for the Nominating Committee: Patty Smith, Shirley Scritchfield, Mike Nuschy, and Terry Casey.

DIRECTOR'S HOTLINE

Beginning February 1, the Director's Hotline will be open on Mondays from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. Any member wishing to discuss any matter with the ARC Executive Director may call 348-9223.

VOLUNTEER REQUESTS

We have received a request from a parent whose son is in the ENCOR system for a volunteer to act as an advocate for her son. The job would be extremely challenging. The advocate would represent the interests of the ENCOR client with the parent. If anyone is interested please call Dan Costello at 348-9220.

GUARDIANS NEEDED

There is a continuing need for people who are interested in becoming guardians for people with mental retardation. This month, in particular, we are interested in finding a guardian for a woman in her late 20's. If you are interested in guardianship, please call Dan Costello at 348-9220.

OFFICE SPACE

As you will notice in this edition of the GAZETTE, the Executive Committee has authorized a feasibility study related to the possibility of getting a permanent headquarters for GOARC - either through buying and remodeling an existing structure or through building from scratch. While we take a good look at the possibilities we will remain in our present quarters at 3212 Dodge. We will be reducing, rather severely, the square footage of our present offices, but we will still have more than enough space to operate. Some of our larger meetings (Board, Project II, etc.) are being moved to other locations. The Board of Directors will meet at the W. Dale Clark Library downtown through 1981.

HELP! HELP! GAZETTE staffers are needed the last week of every month. If you can help us get the GAZETTE out please call Mary at 348-9220.

By the way, your contributions to the GAZETTE are welcomed and encouraged. If you have something to say, say it! The deadline for GAZETTE articles to be printed the same month is the 7th. QUESTIONS? Call Mary at 348-9220.

Dear GAZETTE reader,

A Nominating Committee has been chosen to select the candidates for the ARC of Greater Omaha Board of Directors.

If you are interested in serving on the ARC Board, or if you know of someone that you would like to recommend for a position on the ARC Board, please fill out the form on the reverse side and return it to:

Nominating Committee
c/o ARC of Greater Omaha
3212 Dodge St.
Omaha, NE 68131

Members of the ARC Board of Directors are expected to attend monthly Board meetings (second Tuesday at 7:30 PM) and participate in one of the Standing Committees, or the Executive Committee.

There are four Standing Committees. (By-laws change effective 1/20/81).

The Administrative Services Committee is responsible for the oversight of all aspects of the administrative, fiscal, and membership functions of the ARC. The Educational Services Committee is responsible for the oversight of all aspects of the delivery of educational services in Douglas and Sarpy Counties, and advocacy within this area of responsibility, if, and/or when needed. The Residential Services Committee is responsible for the oversight of all aspects of the delivery of residential services in Douglas and Sarpy Counties, and advocacy within this area of responsibility if, and/or when needed. The Vocational Services Committee is responsible for the oversight of all aspects of the delivery of vocational services in Douglas and Sarpy Counties, and advocacy within this area of responsibility if, and/or when needed.

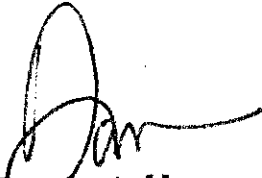
Candidates must be members of the ARC and reside in Douglas or Sarpy Counties.

50% of the members of the Board of Directors must be parents of disabled children.

Members will be elected at the May General Membership Meeting - elections and awards night - for two year terms.

Traditionally, members of the Board of Directors have been parents, professionals in the field of mental retardation, or interested citizens who have been involved with the work of the ARC in some capacity in the past.

Thank you.



Dan Costello
Executive Director

NOMINATION PROFILE - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - ARC OF GREATER OMAHA - '81/82

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____ (work, if different) _____

County of residence _____

School District _____

Membership Catagory: Parent *

Professional _____

Interested Citizen _____

Interested Citizen/Consumer _____

Standing Committee Preference** _____

By Whom, and in what position, employed _____

Previous ARC Involvement _____

Interest/experience nominee would bring to the ARC Board _____

* Please indicate the age of your disabled child (children) and their
handicapping condition _____

** Administrative, Educational Services, Residential Services, Vocational
Services - description on reverse.

**The ARC (Association for
Retarded Citizens) is**

**YOUR INVESTMENT
IN A
PROGRESSIVE FUTURE**

1981 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

 **ARC
GREATER
OMAHA**

NAME _____
LAST FIRST FIRST

ADDRESS _____
STREET CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE _____
HOME WORK WORK

ARE YOU A PARENT _____ PROFESSIONAL _____ INTERESTED CITIZEN _____

*CHILD'S NAME _____ AGE _____ DISABILITY _____
SERVICE PROVIDER(S) _____

*(This information needed for planning purposes only)

MEMBERSHIP _____ \$12.00 ADULT/FAMILY
_____ \$ 3.50 YOUTH

MAIL TO: 3212 Dodge, Omaha, NE, 68131

Lifetime memberships are available. Call 348-9226

MAY WE CALL ON YOU FROM TIME TO TIME TO PROVIDE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT? PLEASE INDICATE
THOSE AREAS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN (WE WILL TRAIN YOU WHEREVER POSSIBLE).

LEADERSHIP - Board of Directors

FUNDRAISING - Five 1981 Special Event Chairmen and committee members; Honey Sunday
Area Coordinators; Day of Event Volunteers (Special Events, Honey Sunday, Tootsie
Roll Drive); Designers (logos, fliers, tee-shirts, etc.)*

OFFICE - General Office assistants; typists*; file clerks*; phone callers*; office
machine operators

PUBLIC EDUCATION - Speakers; Resource Room material reviewers (readers)*

MEMBERSHIP - Phone callers*; Membership Drive helpers for mailings, processing;
General Membership Meeting assistants (hospitality)

PROJECT II - Drivers; recreation planners; general support persons

GOYARC - Drivers; recruitment assistants; general support persons

ADVOCACY - Monitors for Vocational and Residential Monitoring Teams; GAZETTE writers,
photographers, layout and pasteup persons, typists; speakers for Speakers Bureau;
Advocacy Network mailing assistants, general Network updaters

*Some of these jobs may be done in your home

I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES _____

GOARC gazette

VOL. XIII NO. 2 The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha (GOARC) FEBRUARY, 1981

CELEBRATING 1981-INTERNATIONAL YEAR

Last year the United Nations proclaimed 1981 the "International Year of Disabled Persons" in an effort to promote national awareness of the needs of disabled citizens.

Shortly thereafter, Omaha was designated a flagship city and encouraged to actively participate in the IYDP through comprehensive public education and advocacy campaigns.

In response to this national effort, GOARC is sponsoring the first major event honoring the International Year in Omaha by presenting THE INFORMATION FAIR at the Crossroads Mall on March 7th. Over 50 social service agencies and special interest groups will be on hand from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to publicize the services that they provide to people with disabilities.

As of February 13, 1981, the following have confirmed their participation in the Fair:

ASSOC. FOR CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES
HOTLINE FOR THE HANDICAPPED
ADAPTIVE RECREATION DEPT.
MADONNA SCHOOL
EASTER SEALS SOCIETY
AMERICAN DISABLED VETERANS
ENCOR
ENCOMH
MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON THE HANDICAPPED
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
UNMC DIVISION OF PEDIATRICS/CARDIOLOGY
NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES
METROPOLITAN ARTS COUNCIL

GOARC
NEBRASKA SPECIAL OLYMPICS
YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED
SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
CETA
UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY
RADIO TALKING BOOK
HANDICAPPED MOBILITY
YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES
BOYSTOWN INSTITUTE
LOESS HILLS AREA 13 EDUCATION AGENCY
MCRI
OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGISTRY OF INTERPRETERS FOR THE DEAF
NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON HEARING IMPAIRED
OMAHA ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF
NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL
IMMANUEL MEDICAL CENTER REHAB PROGRAM
PLANNED PARENTHOOD
METRO TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (EACH)
NEBRASKA CHILDFIND
MOBY
MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION
RALSTON TRAINING CENTER (PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
CLEFT PALATE ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN RED CROSS (OMAHA)
NEBRASKA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
MCRI DENTAL CLINIC
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CLINICAL GENETICS CTR.
NEBRASKA SERVICES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED
NEBRASKA ADVOCACY SERVICES
NORTHWESTERN BELL
LEGAL AID SOCIETY
YMCA
YWCA
COUNCIL BLUFFS SPEC ED/ROSE KENNEDY SCHOOL

EDITORIAL

The number of people on ENCOR's Vocational Waiting List continued to escalate through the end of 1980. In September of 1980, there were 27 people on the Vocational Waiting List. In January of 1981 that number had increased to 46. During those three months, two people entered ENCOR's Vocational programs and one person found competitive employment. BUT 22 PEOPLE WERE ADDED TO THE LIST!

The number of people on ENCOR's Residential "Red Alert" Waiting List declined by two persons through the end of 1980. In September of 1980 there were 24 people on the Residential "Red Alert" List. In January of 1981 there were 22 people on the list. During those three months seven persons entered ENCOR's Residential programs, one person refused services, and two people were institutionalized. BUT 10 PEOPLE WERE ADDED TO THE LIST!

Appropriations will be critical to resolving the problem of Expanded Services. Hearings on the budgets for community Mental Retardation Regions will begin in Lincoln on February 23.

The ENCOR Budget was prepared in August, 1980 for submission to the Office of Mental Retardation/Dept. of Public Institutions. The money allocated for this budget will provide services for the 1981/82 Fiscal Year (July, 1981 - June, 1982).

When the ENCOR budget was submitted, ENCOR requested money to expand three programs. They requested \$45,682 to fund a summer program for school-aged persons. They requested \$119,990 to expand their in-home support program. And, they requested \$313,301 to bring 36 people into programs off of their waiting lists.

Unfortunately, the amount requested for expansion to remove people from the waiting list is inadequate because there will be almost four times that number of people on the lists by the end of the 81/82 fiscal year.

It is not known, at this point, what impact the expansion of the in-home program will have on the waiting lists. But, if people continue to request services at the rate they have been over the past four

or five years, and if people continue to move through the programs at the same rate as they have been over the past four or five years, there will be (and this is a projection) over 130 - 150 people on the waiting lists by June, 1982.

Even if the legislature allocated the amount that ENCOR requested, they could not eliminate waiting lists.

In fact, the amount of State General Fund money that would be needed to meet the demand for services in the Region VI area is much closer to \$823,000. ENCOR was asked by the Expanded Services Task Force, to prepare a sample budget on the assumption that there would be 144 people on waiting lists by June, 1981. If there were 84 people waiting for Vocational Services and 60 people waiting for Residential Services (Emergency Admissions Only!), ENCOR estimates that the total services budget would be \$977,598 for Fiscal Year 1981/82 and \$2,058,350 for continuation of those expanded programs into Fiscal Year 82/83. Approximately 16% of these total budgets would come from funding sources other than the State of Nebraska. The remaining 84% would be State General Fund money.

IF THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS WITH MENTAL RETARDATION ARE TRULY TO BE MET - THE LEGISLATURE MUST CONSIDER A FUNDING LEVEL FAR IN EXCESS OF THE REQUEST PREPARED BY ENCOR OVER SIX MONTHS AGO!

arc IN ACTION

Beginning with this issue, we will attempt to keep you updated on the inside workings of the ARC with the addition of ARC IN ACTION.

RESIDENTIAL MONITORING The Handbook for Residential Monitors was forwarded to volunteers for the first meeting on February 2nd. Seven people attended the first meeting. The Team went through the Handbook which formed the core of their training. Volunteers felt that two Teams would be possible and split into two monitoring teams. Each team picked an ENCOR site, at random. Team 1 will visit their residence on March 2nd, and Team 2 will visit their residence on March 11th.

SPEAKERS BUREAU The Bureau made five presentations in January.

At the January General Membership Meeting the suggestion was made from the floor that GOARC schedule the General Membership Meetings on consistent days at consistent locations.

WELL, YOU ASKED FOR IT AND YOU GOT IT!!!

From now on, the General Membership Meetings will be held on the SECOND TUESDAY of the following months: March, May, September, November and January. They will be held at First Federal of Lincoln on 42nd Street (one block south of Center) in the Community Room at 7:30 P.M.

We have also included a schedule of Public Forums for 1981.

(The meetings had to be scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month because all Thursdays at First Federal were booked).

GOARC

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

3-26-81
dist, w

7:30 pm - 42nd & Center - First Fed. of Lincoln

MARCH 10

MAY 12

SEPTEMBER 8

NOVEMBER 10

GOARC

PUBLIC FORUMS

APRIL 23

JULY 14

AUGUST 11

OCTOBER 13

MARCH 10 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - If you missed the Legislative Workshop don't miss this! Dave Powell, Executive Director of the ARC-Nebraska, will speak on Legislative Affairs and Priorities. Come and find out about the new Guardianship Bill, the Prevention Education Bill and many more. There will be time for socializing so come and "catch up". We'd like to meet you.

APRIL 23 ADVOCACY FORUM - Craig Fecker, GOARC Board President and Internorth Attorney, will make a presentation on "Estate Planning for Parents With a Handicapped Child". Gary Fischer, GOARC Board Member and Legal Aid Attorney, will speak on "Guardianship". This is the first of a series of FREE Public Advocacy Forums scheduled for 1981. 7:30 pm - 42nd & Center - First Fed. of Lincoln

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

FOR MEMBERS ONLY . . .

We are sending the For Members Only section of the GAZETTE separately this month in order to give you the nominees for the 1981-82 Board of Directors; as selected by the Nominating Committee, at least two weeks before the elections (May 12th).

The following individuals have been nominated by the Nominating Committee:

PRESIDENT: Bonnie Shoultz - Bonnie has been active member of GOARC for many years. During the 1980-81 Board she has served on the Administrative Services Committee. She also is the secretary for the Project 11 group. She is an interested citizen.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Mike McGill - Mike served on the 1980-81 Board as the second vice-president.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Henry Roberts - As a parent and newcomer to Omaha, he is the Director of Joslyn Art Museum

SECRETARY: Paula Hyland - Paula and her husband, Lou, are the parents of 4 children. They have legal custody of 2 children, one of which has Downs Syndrome. They also have been a foster home for the last 9 years. The Hyland family lives in Omaha.

TREASURER: Tom Kodera - Tom has served on the 1980-81 Board on the Childrens Services Committee then moved up to become the Treasurer. He is a professional.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Patty Smith - Patty, a former GOARC employee, she now works with MCRI. She is a parent of a handicapped child. Patty has been involved with GOARC for many years.

Nominees for two year terms:

Bill Wills: Bill has served on the Board of Directors for a couple of years. This last year he was on the membership committee and is now on the Administrative Services Committee. Bill is a parent.

Margaret Downing: She and her husband, Roger, have 6 children, Donna age 13 has Downs Syndrome. They are at the present time living in Papillion and they have taken Pilot Parent Training. Margaret while overseas in Spain, was president for 1 year with an active program called CHAP (Children Have A Potential), and in working with another person she started a pre-school/nursery that would take handicapped children.

Tom Houlihan: An interested citizen - Tom is an active member of Project 11 and served on the 1980-81 Board on the Vocational Services Committee.

Jack DeMay: As a parent, Jack has served on the 1980-81 Board on the Vocational Services Committee and has been active in GOARC for many years.

Lois Rood: As a professional working at MCRI, Lois has been an active member of GOARC for many years.

Gary Fischer: A newcomer to GOARC, Gary works with Legal Aid and has served on the 1981 Board of Directors on the Educational Services Committee for the last 6 months.

Dr. John Walburn: John has served on the GOARC Board for the last couple of years, first on the Membership Committee and during the 1980-81 term he has served as the 1st Vice-President.

Joyce McCreary: Is a professional and is a home teacher for ENCOR.

Paul Feilmann: Paul served on the 1980-81 Board on the Childrens Services Committee and is now serving on the Residential Services Committee. Paul is a professional working at ENCOR and is the advisory for the Youth Group.

Debbie Vincent: As a member of the legal staff at InterNorth, Debbie is an interested citizen interested in working with handicapped citizens.

Nominees for one year term (to fill Board vacancy): Linda Esterling, An interested citizen, Linda is the Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator at MCRI and has been a member of GOARC for many years.

In addition to these individuals, nominations may be made from the floor. Any person nominated from the floor must indicate his/her willingness to serve either in writing, or must be present and indicate a willingness to serve.

Only those with current memberships will be allowed to vote.

The elections this year will be held at the Annual Awards Night on May 12th, STARTING AT 7:00 PM (please note the earlier time!!!!), at the First Federal of Lincoln Building, one block south of 42nd & Center.

Speaking of Awards and Election Night, I would like to make a special request to all of our members, and their families, to attend the Awards Night this year. Awards Night has always represented a coming together of the best in the mental retardation movement, and this year, more than any time in recent years, I think we need to celebrate what is good, and right, about us. I hope that you will join your friends and neighbors on TUESDAY, MAY 12TH, for just such a celebration of joy & renewal.

"BEST BOY"

On Saturday, May 9th, at 7:30 PM we will be sponsoring, in cooperation with the Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute, a showing of the Academy Award winning documentary "Best Boy" and the film "Transitions". To get to Wittson Hall at University of Nebraska Medical Center you would enter the main doors on 42nd Street. Right inside the door there is a hallway to your left which leads to the auditorium. There should be signs out to direct you. You may park under the clinics off of Dewey Street, or in any of the University Hospital lots. (The underground parking costs 25¢ after 6:00 on the weekend). Don't worry about showing your GOARC membership card at the door - we will have that information with us - just come and enjoy yourselves. If you know of a non-member who wants to come the admission price is \$3.00. This is our way of thanking you for the support you have shown the ARC. We hope to see you there.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY . . .

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The February Board of Director's Meeting was held on February 17th at the W. Dale Clark Library, downtown. The Board took the following actions:

- 1) The Board adopted the following operating budget for 1981:

Line Item/Expenses

Salaries	\$ 50,407
Benefits	1,970
Taxes	4,000
Professional Fees	3,860
Supplies	4,200
Telephone	3,900
Postage	4,280
Occupancy	12,518
Travel/Conference	3,510
Rental & Maintenance of Equipment	1,629
Purchase of Equipment	3,500
Printing & Publications	7,290
Awards & Grants Expense	725
Assistance to Individuals	500
Miscellaneous	2,602
Payment to Affiliated Organizations	15,750
TOTAL	\$120,641

Line Item/Income

Contributions	6,500
Special Events	22,750
Membership Dues	5,400
Sales to Public	1,500
Investment/Rental Income	3,468
UWM Support	81,023
TOTAL	\$120,641

- 2) The Board supported a preliminary report from the Vocational Monitoring Team which called for a relocation of the South ITC from its present site to a building which would be appropriate in space and facilities for a vocational training site. The final report will be presented at the March Board meeting.

- 3) The Board adopted the following resolution:

At the present time, there are individuals with mental retardation in the greater Omaha area, who are eligible for the residential and vocational services provided by the Eastern Nebraska Community Office of Retardation (ENCOR), but who remain on waiting lists pending the availability of the needed service(s).

There is also a real danger that there will continue to be increasing number of individuals in the same circumstances in the future.

The ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens) of Greater Omaha firmly supports the concept that appropriate community services must be made available for every eligible person. The ARC of Greater Omaha also understands that the resolution of the problem of waiting lists and inadequate community services will require both immediate and long-term action at the state and regional levels.

At the state level, therefore, the ARC of Greater Omaha calls upon the Appropriations Committee and the Nebraska Legislature to provide adequate State General Fund allocations to eliminate waiting lists, and to provide community services for all eligible residents.

The ARC of Greater Omaha also calls upon all state agencies involved in the development of regulations designed to allow community programs access to federal funding through the Title XIX program of the Social Security Act, to speed their deliberations and thereby remove some financial burden from the State of Nebraska.

At the regional level, the ARC of Greater Omaha calls upon the Governing Board of the Eastern Nebraska Community Office of Retardation (ENCOR) to immediately begin to investigate the availability of any and all appropriate funding sources which are presently not utilized, or are under-utilized. Such an investigation should include, but not be limited to Nebraska Department of Public Welfare funds, Nebraska Department of Education funds, and Federal Title XIX funds (under the present regulations) for the Developmental Maximization Unit (DMU).

Finally, the ARC of Greater Omaha calls upon the ENCOR Governing Board to immediately begin to develop a plan which will adequately project the numbers of persons who will need services in the future, and how to best implement the provision and funding of those services, in order to avoid continued waiting lists.

4) The Board authorized the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to review the content of the presentations in the Horacek vs. Thone hearings.

5) The Board moved to forward the following motion to committee (Administrative Services Committee) for review:

"The GOARC Board of Directors supports 1) the concept of private service providers for people with mental retardation; 2) the belief that all tax generated revenue which might go to private services providers must be distributed by the Nebraska Legislature to and through the Nebraska Community Mental Retardation Regions, and 3) that the GOARC Board should not be placed in the position of endorsing individual/particular private service providers."

The Committee will review the motion in late February or early March. Readers have input should forward their comments to: Administrative Services Committee, c/o GOARC, 3212 Dodge, 68131.

6) The Board approved of GOARC's sponsorship of tours of ENCOR by elected officials - especially State Senators.

7) The Board approved a Committee of five Board members to seek representatives from GOARC to participate in the ENCOR Advisory Committee.

PHONE TROUBLES

I apologize to anyone who tried to get through to the office on February 17 and 18 - our phones were out of order for incoming calls!

MEMBERSHIP

Please forward your membership in as soon as possible!!!

YOU CAN WIN

1ST PRIZE	STEREO SYSTEM
2ND PRIZE	10-SPEED BIKE
3RD PRIZE	ROLLER SKATES
4TH PRIZE	AM/FM HEADPHONES

FREE T-SHIRT TO ALL WHO FINISH
FREE EVENING MEAL



**WHAT
WHEN
WHERE
TIME**

G.O.A.R.C. SKATE-A-THON FUN SKATE '81
SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH
SKATETOWN, 5101 HARRISON
10:00 AM TO 10:00 PM REGISTRATION 9:30 AM
REGISTRATION FEE: \$3.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE GOARC OFFICE AT 348-9220.

AWARDS NIGHT

ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS OF GREATER OMAHA

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1981

GOARC Awards Night - Each year we plan a special evening to honor those persons in this community who have contributed a great deal on behalf of individuals who are mentally retarded. Please suggest the names of persons you feel should be recognized for devoting their time and efforts during the past year.

Return the sheet to GOARC, 3212 Dodge St., Omaha, NE, 68131, by April 17th in order for your candidate to be considered. If you have any questions call Mary Magnuson at 348-9220.

1981 AWARDS

JUNE VANCE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (A person whose actions demonstrate a special sensitivity to human needs and rights)

RAY LOOMIS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD (A leader in the community or in his/her profession who has brought beneficial changes on behalf of people who have mental retardation)

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD (A person who has given unselfishly of their time and energy for activities benefiting persons with mental retardation)

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR/SCHOOL AWARD (Anyone employed by a school district in Douglas or Sarpy Counties)

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR/ENCOR AWARD (Anyone employed by the Eastern Nebraska Community Office on Retardation)

MEDIA OF THE YEAR (Outstanding person or organization that has publicized and promoted the cause of mentally retarded citizens)

ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR (An organization that has been helpful in any way to retarded citizens)

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR (A person who has done a great deal to promote the rights of persons with handicaps)

PILOT PARENT OF THE YEAR (Pilot Parents will nominate their own candidates)

GOYARC MEMBER OF THE YEAR (GOYARC will nominate their own candidates)

PROJECT II MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD (Project II will nominate their own candidates)

1981 AWARDS (Continued)

PARENTS OF THE YEAR

OUTSTANDING PROGRESS/YOUTH

OUTSTANDING PROGRESS/ADULT

Who are you nominating:

Name

Address

Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

What award are you nominating them for: _____

Why do you think they should win the Award: _____

YOU MAY NOMINATE AS MANY PEOPLE FOR AS MANY AWARDS AS YOU WISH!!

IF NECESSARY, ATTACH SEPARATE SHEETS FOR ADDITIONAL AWARDS - WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO FOLLOW THE OUTLINE ABOVE ON ALL YOUR NOMINATIONS.

Your Name: _____

(OPTIONAL, BUT WE MAY WANT TO CONTACT YOU FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR NOMINEE)

Your Address: _____

Your Phone: _____

PLEASE RETURN YOUR NOMINATION BY APRIL 17TH.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The March Meeting of the GOARC Board of Directors was held at the W. Dale Clark Library on March 17th.

The Board will review the proceedings of the Horacek vs. Exon hearing at the April Board meeting. The hearings which took place in February should determine the outcome of the Horacek case which has been in the courts for so long. Attorneys for the defense and for the plaintiffs both agreed to the plan of implementation presented by the State of Nebraska (Thone III). The attorneys for the Justice Department and for ARC of Nebraska (through a brief) argued for the plan proposed by the Nebraska Mental Retardation Panel.

The ENCOR Advisory Committee should be in place in the very near future. Craig Fecker was appointed as the GOARC Representative for Douglas County. A complete story on the Committee will appear in the April GAZETTE.

Dear Members,

We have been using the "For Members Only" format for several months. I would certainly like to hear from you if you think that the information is useful or not, and if there are any other pieces of information that you would like to see included in this section.

For the past year or so, the National and affiliated associations around the country have been changing their names to achieve a national "identity". The State Association, for example, is now the Association for Retarded Citizens of Nebraska - ARC of Nebraska.

You may have noticed that in several places around the GAZETTE, and in other information coming out of our Association, we have been using several possible styles for our name. The easiest style is Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) of Greater Omaha - GOARC. If any of our members have any feelings about the style of our name please let me know. At some point in the future we should discuss a formal name change - at this point we are simply seeing what looks and sounds best!

ARE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS STILL SOMETHING WE NEED OR WANT? The past three General Membership Meetings have not been very well attended. The topics for the three meetings have been varied (September - "How and Why Should the Severely and Profoundly Retarded Person be Served in the Community?"; January - two films and an ARC Update; March - Legislative Issues with Dave Powell), and I hope, interesting.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS....Cont.

We have had some suggestions about things that we can do to make them better. First, we need to always have them on the same night. We have scheduled all of the General Membership Meetings in 1981 for the second Tuesday of the appropriate months. Second, we need to have them at the same place. All of the 1981 meetings will be at the First Federal of Lincoln building, one block south of 42nd & Center Sts.

I guess we need to know from our members if there is anything that we can do to make the meetings more attractive to you, or should we give in and change the By-laws so that we don't have to have so many General Membership Meetings?

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UPDATE - We are happy to announce that we have received 42 NEW memberships since the drive started in March. Renewals are coming in a bit sluggishly - only 93 RENEWALS have been received. There are 22 LIFE members.

If you would like to be a member, but need financial assistance, please submit your application ATTN: Mary. We have some very generous members who have provided funds for you. We will keep this information strictly confidential.

WE DO NEED YOUR SUPPORT AS MUCH AS YOU NEED OURS! REMEMBER, OUR STRENGTH IS IN NUMBERS!!!!

Any questions, requests, or membership applications should be directed to MARY, GOARC, 3212 Dodge St., Omaha, NE, 68131, (402) 348-9220. Thank you.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 2

VOCATIONAL MONITORING The Handbook for Vocational Monitors was distributed to volunteers at the first meeting on January 27th. Ten people attended the first meeting. The Team went through the Handbook which formed the core of their training. The South Industrial Training Center (ITC) was targeted as the first monitoring site and will be visited on February 16.

ADVOCACY Two topics, "Guardianship" and "Estate Planning for Families with a Handicapped Child" will be presented at the April 23rd Advocacy Forum. The forum will be held at First Federal of Lincoln on 42nd Street at 7:30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Craig Fecker, GOARC Board President and Internorth Attorney, and Gary Fischer, GOARC Board Member and an Attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Omaha.

ENHSA/ENCOR - The group of advocates that has been meeting with Dan Lynch has set an agenda for their meeting with the ENHSA Governing Board. It will include a presentation on the history and make-up of Nebraska's Mental Retardation Regions, a comment on the implementation of a Personnel Advisory Committee, and a strong call for the immediate implementation of an Advisory Committee for ENCOR.

The group will then suggest some short-term resolutions to perceived structural problems between ENHSA and ENCOR and communicate intention to continue to monitor difficulties over the next six month period to see if the transition to area mgmt. will make any differences. They will also strongly recommend that the first official task of the Advisory Committee should be a review and update of the 5-Year Plan with an eye to the relationship between ENHSA and ENCOR and the changes of area management, and that the Board should make a commitment to implementing any recommendations. THE ENCOR/ENHSA ADVOCACY GROUP IS NOT A GOARC COMMITTEE, BUT A SEPARATE GROUP OF INTERESTED CITIZENS.

SYSTEMS ADVOCACY Working with the Mayor's Committee on the Handicapped, Methodist Hospital was contacted regarding the production of a videotape about their Work Station in Industry to be used as part of the Mayor's Committee International Year of Disabled Persons Speakers Bureau, PSAs and education on the employment of people with mental retardation across the state.

FAMILY SUPPORT Four new Pilot Parent referrals were received in January. Eleven parents attended the January Brown Bag Lunch. A presentation was made at Saint Joseph's Hospital in January by Janet Ansell. She has been asked to make another presentation in March.

GOYARC had over 27 people participate in its January Bowling Outing. Two events were scheduled for February: Ice Skating on the 13th and Broom Hockey on the 28th. GOYARC expects to begin a major recruitment drive in the public schools within the next two months.

EXPANDED SERVICES TASK FORCE A package will be forwarded through the schools to all parents of High School aged students in special ed programs, and to parents through ENCOR's Guidance Division, which will include the following: copies of the guidelines for getting onto and off of waiting lists, a copy of the current waiting lists, and an Expanded Services Task Force (ESTF) Fact Sheet and Update.

PROJECT II Project II elected a new slate of officers at their January meeting. Elected were: President - Ollie Rector, Vice-President - Nancy Loomis, Treasurer - Harold Edwards. Bonnie Shoultz remained as Secretary. The first module of, a rights training package, purchased under cofunding with the Ombudsman grant, called "Rights Now", was previewed. One module of the package will be used each month in the Project II meetings.

FUNDRAISING The Fund Raising Committee presented the 1981 Package to the Board at their January meeting. Included in the package are: Mental Retardation Month Drive (Membership Drive and Skate-a-thon); Summer Drive (Las Vegas Nite and Softball Tournament); Honey Sunday Events (Honey Sales, Honey Sunday Marathon and Spelling Bee).

FUN SKATE '81 will be held at Skatetown on 51st & Harrison on March 28 from 10 to 10. Dena Launderville chairs this event.

FIRST ANNUAL MEN'S OPEN LAST CHANCE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT will be held on August 29 and 30. The tournament was approved by the Omaha Softball Association and a major sponsor has been approached. This event is chaired by Mary Magnuson.

VOLUNTEER THANKS

Jean Soshnik and Dorothy Billings from the RSVP program, Louise Bold, Sue Fisher, Denise Claire, Gary Fischer, Shirley Dean, Diane Magnuson, Dena Launderville, Wesley Woodhead, John McIntosh, Jim Brentlinger, and Jim Tomes.

MEMORIALS/DONATIONS We would like to thank the following persons for their thoughtful contributions to GOARC:

Dr. John Walburn
Frank & Lorraine Lawson, Jr.
Joseph & Helen Schultz
Employees of Northwestern Steel
Reverend Mildred Jackson
Mrs. K.M. Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Newman
ANONYMOUS

IN MEMORIAM We would like to ask that you remember Dr. Robert W. Zellhoefer in your prayers this month. Dr. Zellhoefer passed away in February. He had served on the Board of Directors from July, 1977 to June 1979. His wife Jane has been active in GOARC for many years.

"COMING UP"

MARCH IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH

- 2 - Residential Monitoring Team #1 On-Site Visit
- 3 - Executive Committee Meeting
- 4 - Vocational Services Committee Meeting
- 7 - THE INFORMATION FAIR
- 9 - Educational Services Committee Meeting
- 10- General Membership Meeting
NebARC Govt. Affairs Comm. Meeting
- 11- Residential Monitoring Team #2 On-Site Visit
- 17- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NebARC Govt. Affairs Comm. Meeting
- 18- ENHSA Board Meeting
- 19- Region VI DD Council Meeting
- 20- Project II Meeting
- 23- Residential Services Committee Meeting
- 24- Mayor's Committee on the Handicapped
NebARC Govt. Affairs Comm. Meeting
- 25- Human & Legal Rights Committee Meeting
- 26- Administrative Services Comm. Meeting
- 27- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE
(GOARC's Day to Volunteer)
- 28- FUN SKATE '81

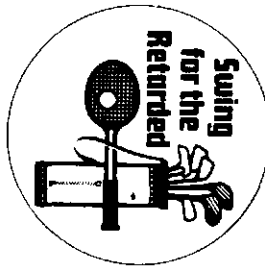
OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are needed to help during GOARC Skate-a-thon, FUN SKATE '81, on March 28. If you want to help call DENA at 348-9220.

LET'S START SOMETHING - How about a Men's or Women's Integrated Softball Team? What better way start a public trend toward integration? If you're interested in coaching please call MARY at 348-9220. March 20 is the deadline for team registration.

SCOREKEEPERS and committee members for the FIRST ANNUAL ARC MEN'S OPEN tournament on August 29 & 30. Committee members will be responsible for promotion, prizes and post tournament awards presentation, clean-ups, etc. Call MARY at 348-9220.

This issue compliments of Swing for the Retarded



GOARC
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68131

The Greater Omaha Association for Retarded
Citizens is a United Way Agency



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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES HIGHLIGHTED AT MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The March General Membership meeting of the ARC of Greater Omaha was held at the First Federal of Lincoln Building on March 10th. After a short business meeting, Mr. Dave Powell, Executive Director of the ARC of Nebraska, presented a review of the major pieces of legislation which are pending before the State Legislature.

Dave began by pointing out that while we are concerned with levels of appropriations we cannot forget the basic issues of rights of people with mental retardation and their families. In an attempt to insure that

some of those rights are protected, the ARC is supporting LB 428 - sponsored by Senator Vard Johnson - the "limited guardianship bill". LB 428 would improve the current guardianship practice in three important ways. First, it would provide clearer and more distinct protections and would improve due process rights in the initial stages of a proceeding, which would help to avoid the appointment of a guardian on "labels" only. Second, LB 428 would allow the assignment of a guardian in only some areas of respon-

Cont. p. 5

AGENCIES WORK TOGETHER TOWARD GOAL

The Information Fair at the Crossroads on March 7th had two purposes: 1) to let people with disabilities know what services are available to them; and 2) to let the public see how the needs of disabled persons are being met.

According to the feedback we received from various agency representatives, the Fair was a success in terms of meeting the above goals. Many persons suggested holding the Fair again later in the year, but for a longer period of time. It seems that three hours wasn't long enough.

If you didn't make it on the 7th, there were about 50 agencies represented; 5 of those sent information but did not man a display. Almost half of the displays included audio-visual materials - from slide shows to videotapes - and all of them were stacked with pamphlets, folders, booklets, and brochures.

Cont. p. 5





arc in action

FAMILY SUPPORT

PILOT PARENTS - The 1980 report for the Pilot Parent Program was finished. There were 74 referrals and 189 requests for information.

In February there were 6 referrals and 21 requests for information.

February 23rd marked the completion of the Pilot Parent training session. Seven families devoted their time to attend the eight evening sessions to become Pilot Parents. Pilot Parents complete training which enables them to assist and "guide" new parents of handicapped children.

In Pilot Parent training we cover the following topics: Normalization, Least Restrictive Alternatives, Services Within the Community, Mental Retardation, Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy and Autism. Topics are presented to parents and professionals. The following professionals were involved in this training session: Anne Marie Aita (ENCOR), Jane Sherratt (Visiting Nurses Association), Gene Schwarting (Omaha Public Schools), Dan Costello (GOARC), Dr. John McGee (MCRI), Joyce Richter (United Cerebral Palsy), Sheri Socha, (Spina Bifida Association), and Dr. Frank Menolascino (NPI).

One aspect of training involves "how to pilot" new families. Pilot Parents come and share their experiences and work with the parents in training on the guidelines for piloting so that when a referral is received these parents are equipped to handle the responsibility.

Referrals come to the Program from local community-based services, teachers, hospital social service departments, nurses, public health nurses, private physicians,

The GOARC GAZETTE is published monthly by the Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha, 3212 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68131. Craig Fecker, President; Dan Costello, Executive Director, Mary Magnuson, Editor; GOARC is a United Way agency and a member of ARC Nebraska and ARC of the United States.

relatives and friends. When a referral is received the Coordinator matches the new family with a Pilot Parent. The Pilot Parent then contacts this new family within 24 hours, if possible. The pairing of new parents with Pilot Parents is based on the following factors:

- 1) child's handicap
- 2) severity and cause of handicap
- 3) age of child
- 4) marital status of parents
- 5) age of parents
- 6) family structure (number in family, ages of children)

Pilot Parents offer...

- ...emotional support and understanding;
- ...factual information about developmental disabilities;
- ...factual information about medical services, educational programs, and supportive agencies;
- ...introduction to helpful persons and groups that share their interests and concern.

The next training session will begin in October of this year. Any interested parents should contact Janet Ansell.

GOYARC - There were two GOYARC Social Activities in February: A Valentines Party and Ice Skating on February 13, and Broom Hockey on February 28.

There has been some effort to expand the size of GOYARC with recruitment of students from local high schools, and the expansion of attendance by teens of GOARC members and Pilot Parents.

ADVOCACY

PROJECT II - The first training session for the Project II Rights/Advocacy Committee was held on 2/10. The training session consisted of a review of the first module of "Rights Now" with a discussion session. The Project II meeting was held on the evening of 2/20/81. Dave Powell spoke regarding the ARC-Neb position on the closing of Beatrice. The film Transitions was shown. There were about 40 people at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Continued from p. 1

sibility, depending on the needs of the ward. (As the current law is written, the appointment of a guardian means complete loss of rights by the ward). Third, the new bill would require that a guardian report back to the court on their stewardship every two years.

The second bill which was discussed is LB 254 - sponsored by Senator Sieck. This bill would require the schools to expand the health curriculum, that is already mandated by the state, to include information on the prevention of mental retardation.

The third bill on the agenda was LB 389 - sponsored by Senators Don Wesely and Loran Schmit. LB 389 would establish a 5-year pilot program which would make up to \$300 a month available directly to either 1) a family with a disabled child, or 2) a disabled adult living independently. The object of the cash assistance would be to enable the child to remain with the family or the adult to remain independent within the community. The program would be initially limited to 50 families and 50 adults. Eligibility would be based on the level of disability, and the needs of the family/individual.

Dave then discussed LB 183 and LB 442. Both bills would alter the present system for the funding of mental retardation programs in the mental retardation regions. At the present, the Nebraska Legislature sets the amounts to be given to each of the six mental retardation regions (we are in Region VI - ENCOR). The regional offices then operate their programs based on that allocation. LB 183 would allow the Office of Mental Retardation/Department of Public Institutions to use money, appropriated by the Legislature, to fund not only the regional programs - like ENCOR's - but also any other service provider that they should choose - regional, for-profit, or non-profit. LB 442 would provide an even more drastic change in the funding pattern. It would strike the present language which says that the Legislature sets the appropriation for each region. What this would do, it seems, is have the Legislature set a total dollar amount for all mental retardation programs within the State and give it to the Department of Public Institutions /Office of Mental Retardation. They would then decide who got how much, not only within a region, between regional profit,

and non-profit providers, but also across the entire state. This would remove the allocation process from our elected officials and place it in the hands of our state bureaucracy.

The closing comments were on the current appropriations requests that are before the Legislature. There is a clear and growing concern that the level of appropriations for regional programs will fall far short - not only of allowing for expanded services which would eliminate waiting lists, but may fall short of adequate continuation monies which would continue EXISTING programs.

The program ended with a strong call by Dave for all people who are interested in influencing legislation to contact both their Senators, and an appropriate Senator on the committee which is reviewing the bill. Anyone interested in knowing more about the appropriate persons to write, should contact the GOARC office at 348-9220 for information. The ARC of Nebraska also publishes a weekly information bulletin about legislative affairs. The bulletin is free. For your copy, please write ARC of Nebraska, 3100 N. 14th St., Lincoln, NE, 68521. Ask for the "Legislative Action News".

WORKING TOGETHER

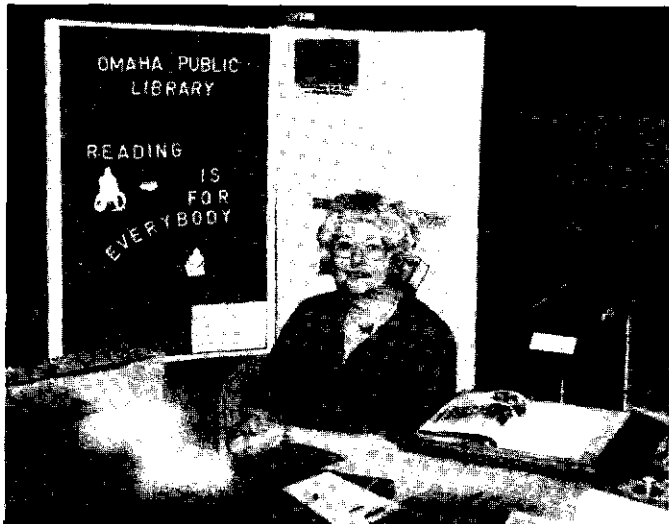
Cont. from p. 1

For a shopping center mall project, the interest level seemed unusually high. It has been my experience that usually, when shoppers are confronted with mall displays they will scan the action from a distance but will rarely stop to interact with the presentors (probably from fear that they will be asked to "buy something"!). But on Saturday, we saw large numbers of people fulfilling our second goal - "seeing how the needs of disabled persons are being met". A lot of information was transferred to interested citizens.

Probably the nicest thing about the Fair, from a Coordinator's point of view, was that it was purely a community project. There was good interagency rapport and volunteer involvement. In fact, I don't know when I have seen a better example of people working together for a common goal.

By Mary Magnuson

THE INFORMATION FAIR WAS PRESENTED IN COOPERATION WITH THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON THE HANDICAPPED.



EDITORIAL

•By Dan Costello

Like most of the country, we have been waiting for the President's budget proposals. Some of the information is now available, and the proposals that relate to special education programs are not very hopeful. Much of the information is still preliminary, but with materials partially provided by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) we can give you some indication of the difficulties the Reagan proposals may cause. The ARC's Educational Services Committee presented a forum on the impact of the proposals on March 30th. (See below for more on forum).

There appear to be three areas of grave concern. The first is the level of overall spending. The second is the "block grant" concept. And, the third is the possible restructuring of the federal laws which govern special education.

The Reagan budget proposals call for a 20%, across the board, cut in federal support to educational programs - in the first year. It would appear that when we combine the inflationary trends with the continuing cuts, the overall decrease in federal assistance could amount (in real dollars) to 50% over three years.

In addition to the cuts themselves, the proposal calls for the distribution of the federal money in the form of two "block grants". One would go to local educational authorities, the other to state educational authorities. What the "block grant" concept means is that money to fund a broad variety of differing educational programs will be combined into one lump sum. The state or local authority would then have discretionary spending power. It would spend all of the money for one program, or distribute it in any way they wanted. At the local level, for example, funding for education for handicapped students is combined with adult education, library and instructional materials, programs for economically disadvantaged students, and several other programs. There is no guarantee that any of the money would go to special education programs.

Finally, the proposal hints that changes must be made in the federal law governing education for handicapped students that would narrow the requirements for funding for handicapped students to only severely handicapped students. And at the same time there is some indication that the related services which can be provided may be severely limited.

As you can clearly see, there is potential danger in the proposals. If you would like information about the forum and what you can do to help, call the GOARC office.

Project II sponsored a St. Patrick's Day Dance at the A.V. Sorensen Center on March 14th. Approximately 100 persons were in attendance.

FORUMS - The following dates and topics have been confirmed for 1981 Advocacy Forums - a) April 23 - Guardianship and Estate Planning, b) July 14 - Behavior Management for the Home, c) August 11 - I.E.P. Planing and Preparation, and d) October 13 - OPEN.

The Guardianship and Estate Planning Forum will be held on April 23 at First Federal of Lincoln (42nd & Frances) beginning at 7:30 PM. Craig Fecker will speak on Estate Planning. Craig is President of the GOARC Board of Directors and an attorney for Internorth who has a vested interest in the Estate Planning process. Gary Fischer, an attorney for the Legal Aid Society, will speak on Guardianship.

EXPANDED SERVICES TASK FORCE - School packets were prepared to go to approximately 600 families of high school aged sons/daughters in the Omaha, Millard, Ralston, Bellevue, and Westside School Districts. The packets included: ESTF Fact Sheet, ESTF Update, ENCOR Guidelines for receiving services, copies of the ENCOR Vocational and Residential Waiting Lists as of 2/1/81, and a cover letter asking that anyone interested should contact us directly to avoid having to go through the schools.

Dan Costello presented testimony at the Appropriations Committee hearings on 2/23/81. Copies of the testimony were forwarded to all senators on the Appropriations Committee.

FUNDRAISING

MEMORIALS: Thank you to Ollie and Lowell Rector, Doris White, Dixie Kinman, June Clapper, Bonnie Shoultz, Shirley Dean, Tom Houlihan, and Joseph and Helen Schultz.

The 11th Annual Swing for the Retarded Golf Outing will be held on Monday, April 27th. The cost for men is \$35 per person: \$25 for women. Men's games will be at Applewood, Miracle Hills (AM only), Platteview, and

Benson. Women's will be at Field Club. The cost includes 18 holes of golf, a free sack lunch, a 6-pack of beverages, prizes and all you can eat and drink after the event at Mr. Kelly's. For more information - contact Al Forrest at 342-5200.

MEMBERS: Thank you for your support! All memberships will be processed at the end of April, so you will receive your cards in the beginning of May. If you have not yet renewed, and plan to, please send your renewal in soon. Thank you.

"FUN SKATE '81" was held March 28 at Skatetown on 51st & Harrison. There were a total of 52 skaters - 42 finished 12 hours.

VOLUNTEERISM

We would like to thank the following volunteers for their help: Louise Bold, Helen DeMay, Dena Launderville, Fran Porter, Bill Wills (MEMBERSHIP CALLING); John Foy, Sherry Noley, Lois Rood (SPEAKERS BUREAU); & John McIntosh (OFFICE HELP). Also, Thanks to all persons who provided transportation to GOY-ARC and PROJECT II activities in February & March.

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE AWARDS AND ELECTION NIGHT - MAY 12TH - MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!

PUBLIC EDUCATION

SPEAKERS BUREAU - Eight speaking engagements were filled by GOARC speakers during February; thirteen in March.

THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AND AGENCIES WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE COORDINATION OF THE FAIR: University of Nebraska at Omaha, First Christian Church, Northwestern Bell, Jim Brentlinger, Mike DeMuth, Laurie Kowal, JoAnn Balcetis, Dena Launderville, Diane Magnuson, Janet Ansell and John McIntosh.

On the following page are Pat Bleick of the Omaha Public Library, and Beth Fine of the Children's Memorial Hospital Clinical Genetics Center (Beth is on the right).

FREE MOVIES BEST BOY TRANSITIONS

MAY 9TH

NON-MEMBERS \$3.00

The Southeast Chapter of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation will honor Dr. E. Jack Trembeth at a testimonial dinner for his outstanding work with birth defective children. The dinner will be held May 23, at Field Club of Omaha. For reservations, please call the March of Dimes office, 333-4205.

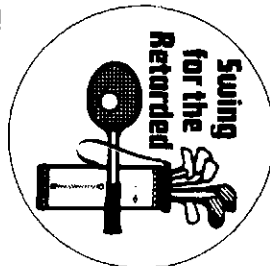
"COMING UP"

- 1 - OFFICE CLOSED (APRIL FOOLS!)
- 3 - Vocational Services Committee Mtg.
ARC Nebraska Annual Convention
- 4 - ARC Nebraska Annual Convention
- 7 - Executive Committee Meeting
- 8 - Vocational Monitoring On-Site Visit
- 13- Educational Services Committee Mtg.
- 15- ENHSA Board Meeting
- 17- Good Friday
- 19- EASTER
- 20- Pilot Parent Dinner
- 21- GOARC Board Meeting
- 22- Human & Legal Rights Committee Mtg.
- 23- FORUM (Estate Planning/Guardianship)
Administrative Services Committee Mtg.
- 27- Residential Services Committee Mtg.
- 28- Mayor's Committee on the Handicapped
Meeting

The Omaha Jaycees, in conjunction with The College of St. Mary, University of Nebraska at Omaha and various social service agencies are sponsoring a "Leisure Festival - Family Fun Day" on Saturday, April 25th. The festival will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Elmwood Park (at U.N.O.'s Fieldhouse in case of rain). This event is free to the public. For more information please call Jan Bullers at 536-6775.

HELPING HANDICAPPED INFANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES, a one-day workshop designed for Pediatricians, nurses, special education directors and others will be held on April 27. For more information contact: Linda Esterling, MCRI, (402) 559-7368.

This issue compliments of Swing for the Retarded



SHIRLEY DEAN
ENCOR
885 SO. 72ND ST.
OMAHA, NE 68114

GOARC
3212 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68131

The Greater Omaha Association for Retarded
Citizens is a United Way Agency



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gazette

VOL. XIII NO. 4 The ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens) of Greater Omaha Apr. 1981

EVERYONE A WINNER!

By Dena Launderville

CONGRATULATIONS SKATERS!!! This should be said to all 52 people who skated for the Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens FUN SKATE '81.

Skaters ranging from age 6 on up (the oldest skater did not give his age) competed for two top prizes (one winner each). 1st place - a stereo; 2nd place - a ten-speed bike; 3rd place - roller skates; and 4th place - AM/FM radio headphones. The third and fourth place prizes were designed so that anyone could win them.

At 10:00 PM, 49 exhausted skaters rolled to a finish. 42 of those participants had skated the entire 12 hours for a total of 100 miles each.

Our top winner was April Kyriess with \$585 in pledges. GOOD JOB APRIL!

We had five winners of skates, ten winners of headphones, and everyone won a tee-shirt.

A special thanks to the following people for their participation in FUN SKATE '81: Donna Launderville and Monique Mejia - Registration; Roger Rickey, Owner, Skatetown; The Skatetown Staff; GOARC Staff; Debbie Launderville - FUN SKATE logo; and various people through the ARC who participated in any way. I would especially like to thank the BOARD MEMBERS who took time out from a busy day to attend and give encouragement.

A very special thanks must go to Mike and Jo Almsteier - Managers. Without their cooperation the skate-a-thon would not have been such a great success.

But most of all I must thank the 52 skaters, for without them there would have been no skate-a-thon. CONGRATULATIONS!

EDITORS COMMENT: Dena Launderville is the full-time secretary at GOARC. Thanks Dena.

BY-LAWS APPROVED

ENCOR Advisory Committee Formed

By Dan Costello

At their February 18th meeting, the ENHSA Governing Board approved a revised set of By-Laws for an ENCOR Advisory Committee. The new set of By-Laws is similar to those submitted to the ENHSA Board in January by a group of community advocates. The new By-Laws call for the ENCOR Advisory Committee to:

"Advise the Governing Board on all motions and regulations presented to the Board involving the planning, organization, provision, evaluation, and fiscal analysis of mental retardation services in the Region.

Advise the Governing Board with regard to all proposed annual and supplemental budgets for the use of the agency.

Advise the Governing Board with regard to all proposed rules or regulations to be adopted or endorsed by the Board for governing the Agency.

Advise the Governing Board with regard to the prioritization, establishment, reduction, or termination of Agency programs and services.

Advise the Governing Board and Administrator with regard to the establishment of personnel policies and procedures...

Continuously monitor, study and evaluate the mental retardation services being provided by the agency...

Act as a forum and communications mechanism for all parents, guardians, service providers, and other citizens

Continued Page 5



arc in action

ADVOCACY

Forums - Over 80 persons attended the ARC sponsored forum on the impending cutbacks in funding for special education programs in the public schools, and the attempt to modify or repeal PL 94-142, the law which guarantees handicapped students a right to an equal and appropriate education. The March GAZETTE addressed the issue in detail. For more information, please call the ARC office (348-9220).

The forum which was scheduled for April 23 on the topic of "Guardianship and Estate Planning" was cancelled in favor of an emergency meeting about the nature of the cutbacks within ENCOR caused by the present funding. If our readers would like a re-scheduling of the forum on Guardianship, please call the office. If there is no response we will not re-schedule the forum!

Vocational Brainstorming - The group of volunteers that has been working over the past several months on preparation of a position paper outlining some alternatives to the current ENCOR vocational system finished their work on March 31. The final paper will be ready for presentation in the near future. Copies may be obtained from the ARC office.

Governmental Affairs - In addition to letters to the Governor asking that the regional mental retardation programs' budgets not be further cut by veto, letters are still needed in support of the Limited Guardianship Bill (LB428), and the family support Bill (LB 389). Letters should go to your Senator - if you need to know his or her name and address, call the office.

Project II - The March Project II meeting marked the first presentation of a module

The GOARC GAZETTE is published monthly by the Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha, 3212 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68131. Craig Fecker, President; Dan Costello, Executive Director, Mary Magnuson, Editor: GOARC is a United Way agency and a member of ARC Nebraska and ARC of the United States.

of the "Rights Now" training package by members of the Project II Rights and Advocacy Committee. Five volunteers from Project II receive monthly training in the presentation and leading of discussions for the modules. The first two modules consist of two slide shows about people with disabilities and the realities of the rights questions they face in everyday living. During the slide presentation members of the audience indicate what they see as the rights and responsibilities that are presented in the slides. After the slide presentation, there is a discussion of the material that had been covered.

We hope that we will have enough trained volunteers from Project II that we will be able to take "Rights Now" on-the-road and begin to make presentations in the workshops and residences.

Personal Advocacy - Staff and volunteers of the ARC answered over 31 requests for assistance and information during March.

Monitoring - During March the two Residential Monitoring teams made their first on-site visits. The information that was gathered at these visits will be compiled by the Residential Services Committee into final reports at their April Meeting. The sites for the first monitoring visits were chosen at random. The sites for the May visits have been chosen as a result of information presented to the ARC and requests by parents or guardians to monitor a specific program or residence.

THE MONITORING TEAMS HAVE SOME LIMITATIONS, BUT IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT AN ENCOR RESIDENCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ARC OFFICE AND SHARE THE CONCERN WITH US. ALL INFORMATION THAT IS GIVEN TO A MONITORING TEAM IS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL IF THE INDIVIDUAL WISHES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF MANY CONCERNED PEOPLE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO BE PUBLICLY OUTSPOKEN REGARDING THE QUALITY OF SERVICES, BUT THE ARC STANDS READY TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP ALLEVIATE THOSE CONCERNS. MORE BENEFIT HAS BEEN REAPED BY THE CONCERNED PUBLIC THAN BY ANYONE WHO HAS REMAINED SILENT.

The Vocational Monitoring Team completed

ADVISORY COMMITTEE from page 1

interested in the planning and direction of mental retardation services in the Region."

The ARC believes that the ENCOR Advisory Committee is a strong part of the community safeguards which also include the ARC, and which can help to insure the quality of ENCOR's services. The revised By-Laws will give the Advisory Committee a strong, substantial role.

In addition to the development of an ENCOR-wide Advisory Committee, each area within ENCOR will also have an Advisory Committee. The Area Directors are in the process of developing their Advisory Committees now. If you are interested in serving in your area, please contact your Area Director: Douglas/North, Kip Reusing, 342-2922; Douglas/Central, Mike Neuschy, 558-3121, Douglas/South, Brian Lensch, 444-6561 and Cass/Sarpy, Bob Brinker, 291-0373. If you are unsure as to which area you are in, please call the ARC office at 348-9220 and we can give you that information. The development of area-based Advisory Committees is critical not only for the role that they will play in advising Area Directors on programs in their areas, but also in the development of the agency-wide committee.

The By-Laws of the ENCOR-wide Advisory Committee call for 15 members. One member will come from each ARC, or ARC chapter, one member will come from each of the Area Advisory Committees, and one member will be appointed by each of the five County Commissioners on ENCOR's Governing Board.

It is hoped that the Advisory Committee will be in place as soon as possible so that there will be community input on the development of the ENCOR 1982 - 83 budget. That process has already begun, but the immediate formation of the Advisory Committee will mean that they would have a chance for input before the budget is finalized.

PICKARD CLOSES

By Ruth Sharp

For the past six years, students from 14 to 21 years of age enrolled in the Trainable Mentally Retarded Program of the Omaha Public Schools have attended the Pickard Transitional Center located at 2105 So. 63 St. As the enrollment increased, classes were moved to Beveridge Junior High and Marrs Junior High as well as Pickard.

The program for this age group emphasizes Related Academics, Home Skills and Pre-Vocational Training.

Plans for the 1981-82 school year project closing the Pickard and Marrs facilities and locating the twelve classes in three Junior High Schools. Students who are in the approximate age range of 14-16 would attend Beveridge Junior High; students approximately 17 and 18 years of age would attend Bryan Junior High; and students approximately 19 through 21 would attend Morton Junior High.

It is hoped that the change in facilities will enhance the educational opportunities available to this group of students.

PROFESSIONALS EXPLORE ALTERNATIVES

By John Corcoran

Sheltered workshops for mentally retarded persons will be the institution of the 80's according to Robert Perske, nationally recognized author and lecturer.

As keynote speaker at the first conference of the Association of Community Professionals held in Columbus, March 12 & 13, Perske traced the pattern of mental retardation services in Nebraska, showing how new ideas have emerged from traditional patterns. Changes are inspired by "the young, those who are new in the field, or older persons who are willing to learn from the young". Perske spoke of an innovative vocational program in Kansas where handicapped workers operate their own coffee shop, serving donuts they have baked. In California handicapped and non-handicapped employees work side by side, he said, each getting paid according to the work performed.

During the two days over 200 persons from the six mental retardation regions and related agencies participated in workshops on vocational and residential alternatives working with severely and profoundly mentally retarded individuals and behavior management.

Officers elected for the Association are: President, John Corcoran, Region IV Office of Developmental Disabilities, Wayne; Vice-President, Lois Rood, Meyer Children's Rehabilitation Institute, Omaha; Secretary, Paul Hartman, Region I Office of Mental Retardation, Scottsbluff; Treasurer, Richard Packwood, Region V Mental Retardation Services, Lincoln. Board members at large, representing all areas of the state, will serve one, two or three year terms.

FAMILY SUPPORT

The Pilot Parent Program received four referrals during the month of March. Two more referrals came in during the first half of April. Eight Pilot Parent presentations were made during March.

Tom and Jane Upton hosted a Pot Luck Dinner on March 13. The food was fantastic and we enjoyed the evening very much. Thanks.

Don and Madelene Gowing opened up their home on April 10 for a "Parents Night Out". The Gowings furnished delicious sandwiches and snacks. Thanks Madelene and Don.

Diane Baumgartner presented information on "How to Help Bereaved Parents" on March 27. Diane is the author of a book called Melissa - A Very Special Baby. If you have the chance, read it - it's superb. Many thanks to Diane for all the valuable information she shared with the group.

The first GOYARC activity in March was "New Games" at Fontenelle Park on March 15. As you can see, the highlight of the day was the activity with the parachute. Tom Miller led this activity with 18 persons in attendance.

On March 28 some of the GOYARC youth skated in the Skate-a-thon at Skatetown on 50th & Harrison. Others skated for one session and called it quits! There were 12 persons at this activity.

You're reading this
GAZETTE...why not
become a member?

Send your \$12.00 to
GOARC, 3212 Dodge,
Omaha, NE, 68131



And the object of this game is . . .



get rid of Paul Feilmann -

QUICK, LET GO!!!!



Tom, WHAT was the object of this game???

the report of its visit to the Douglas/South Industrial Training Center (ITC). Because this was the first report to be issued by the Team, it took a bit longer than was hoped for, but some of the rough spots have been smoothed over, and we expect that future reports will not take nearly as long. The March meeting of the Vocational Services Committee was spent in finalization of this report. Readers who would like a copy of the report may get one FREE by calling or writing the ARC office.

The April monitoring on-site visit of the Vocational Monitoring Team is scheduled for the Bellevue ITC on April 18th.

FUNDRAISING

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE - Even though the ARC receives the majority of its operating budget from the United Way of the Midlands every year, there is a substantial amount of money that must be raised by the agency in order to complete its yearly budget. Besides the donations we receive from special groups such as the Knights of Columbus and Swing for the Retarded, there is still a good amount that we are accountable for. For this reason, we have tried very hard to form a dynamic, creative Fundraising Committee for 1981 and to create a consistent yearly calendar of special events - one that will be a model and a base for future committees.

I am proud to introduce the members of this committee to you and hope that you appreciate the groundwork that they are laying on your behalf. The 1981 Committee - Chairman Mary Magnuson, GOARC staff member; Cindi Boehmer, Pilot Parent; Louise Bold, parent; Dena Launderville, GOARC staff member; Mary Weichelman, NEW GOARC member and student; Janet Ansell, GOARC staff member; and Tom Miller, professional.

Raising funds is not easy, but we feel that with a little support from members and friends of the ARC it can be done - IT MUST BE DONE. Please show your support by keeping up-to-date on what we're doing and by taking the time to volunteer when you can. If you have any questions about the committee, or would like to join, please call me, Mary, at 348-9220 (Office).

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT - The Fundraising Committee met on April 16 to plan for the next 1981 special event, THE FIRST ANNUAL MEN'S OPEN CLASS SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT. The Tourn-

ament is double elimination, 40 teams will play a maximum of 79 games on August 29 and 30 at Seymour, or another 4-field complex. It is a MEN's open class tournament. Entry fee is \$100 - this will be paid by each team selling 10 books of 10 raffle tickets at \$1.00 per ticket. Raffle sales outside of the tournament will be used to offset the high cost of umpire fees. Trophies will be awarded to the top five teams, all teams will be given tee-shirts. **HOW CAN YOU HELP?????** If you are on a softball team you should play in the tournament. If not, you can: sell or purchase tickets from the ARC, donate your services if you are an umpire, work on one of the tournament committees, tell people about the tournament and ask them to play in it, or make a donation to the raffle. **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE CALL MARY at 348-9220. Thank you.**

Joe Taylor, GOARC member, Pilot Parent and owner of Mr. T's Waterbeds on 50th & Dodge, has donated a waterbed (complete with mattress, frame, liner, heater, etc.) to the RAFFLE. Thanks for the push Joe! (All you need is water and a chance!)

MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS - Thank you to Dana Wiig for the memorial, and to our anonymous donor for the donation.

VOLUNTEERISM

VOLUNTEERS - We would like to thank the following people for their help when we needed it: Jan Novicki, Jane Upton, Sherry Noley, Bonnie Wiig, Judy Harl, Sheila Magnuson, Helen Schultz, Peggy Downing, Diane Magnuson, Dixie Mahoney, Cindi Boehmer (AWARDS NITE); Northwestern Bell Employees, Wendy Bartlett, Paul Nelson, Vicki Gordon, Diane Scuddur, Robyn Vajgert, and Lonnie Haugen (TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE); Doris White, Don Grimm, Mike McGill, Molly McGill, Julie McGill, John Clark, Karen Springs, Kathy Jursch, Nora Carmichael, Ron Oden, and the GOARC STAFF (TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE); Charles Tressler, Glenda Davis, Patty Smith, Mary Carlson, Beth Fine, Tom Houlihan, Ollie Rector (SPEAKER'S BUREAU).

AWARDS NITE - GOARC's annual awards presentation will combine the excitement of Awards Nite with Elections this year. The evening will be hosted by The Town Criers, a local nightclub act; festivities will begin at 7:00 p.m. We hope you will join us May 12th for a FUN evening at First Federal of Lincoln on 42nd & Frances.



BEST BOY
ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY 1980

A film by Ira Wohl. Photographed
and Designed by Tom McDonough.

"My name is Ira Wohl and this is my cousin Philly. Philly is 52 years old and he's been mentally retarded since birth. In 1938, when he was 12, he started to become self-destructive. His parents, not knowing how else to deal with it, sent him to live in an institution. They hoped he would learn discipline there and he did, but it was an unhappy experience for all of them, so after two years they brought him home and that's where he's been ever since.

I suppose I'm as guilty as everyone in the family of always having taken Philly for granted; I remember them saying that his mind stopped growing when he was 5 and I guess I always accepted that. But 3 years ago, at a family gathering, I began to wonder what would happen to Philly after his parents were gone, so I spoke with them and with his sister Frances about it. I told them that I thought he needed to become more independent, and although this idea was very difficult for them to deal with, they realized that for Philly's sake as well as their own peace of mind, something needed to be done. This film is a record

"COMING UP"

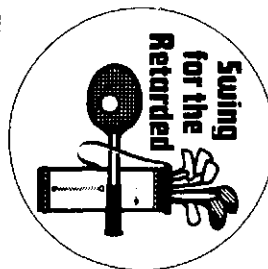
- 2 - GOYARC Orientation
- 5 - Executive Committee Mtg.
Fundraising Committee Mtg.
ARCneb Govt. Affairs Comm. Mtg. (Lincoln)
- 6 - Vocational Services Committee Mtg.
Douglas/North Advisory Committee Mtg.
Pilot Parent Mother's Salad Luncheon
- 7 - Douglas/South Advisory Committee Mtg.
- 9 - BEST BOY & TRANSITIONS UNMC Wittson Hall
- 10 - Mother's Day (Thanks Mom)
- 11 - Educational Services Committee Mtg.
- 12 - AWARDS & ELECTIONS - First Federal
- 15 - Project II Meeting
- 18 - Developmental Disabilities Council Retreat
- 19 - Developmental Disabilities Council Retreat
GOARC Board Meeting
- 20 - ENHSA Board Meeting
- 25 - MEMORIAL DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
- 26 - Mayor's Committee on Handicapped Mtg.
- 27 - Human & Legal Rights Committee Mtg.
- 28 - Administrative Services Committee Mtg.

of what they did and how it changed Philly's life."

On May 9th, at 7:30 pm. "BEST BOY" will be shown at Wittson Hall on the University of Nebraska Medical Center campus. Wittson Hall is located on 42nd Street. Enter the main doors and take a left to the hallway leading to the auditorium. If you are a GOARC member you will be admitted FREE. Non-member charge is \$3.00. There will be parking in the hospital lots. Come and see how Philly's life changed - it may change your life a little too.

THIS SHOWING OF "BEST BOY" WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE AID OF MEYER CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION INSTITUTE (MCRI) IN OBTAINING THE AUDITORIUM.

This issue compliments of Swing for the Retarded



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gazette



SPECIAL EDITION - CUT BACK OR FIGHT BACK?

There is an unprecedented attack underway on the laws which create rights for people with disabilities, and the funding for programs which provide services for disabled people.

In Washington, two major pieces of rights legislation appear to have been targeted for outright elimination. The first is PL 94-142 which guarantees all handicapped students the right to an equal, and appropriate, education. As reported by the Council for Exceptional Children, the Reagan Administration will seek to repeal 94-142, or to restrict it to only severely handicapped children. The second is the Developmental Disabilities Act which creates the protection and advocacy services within the states (Nebraska Advocacy Services for example), and which creates the right to treatment within the least restrictive environment. The Developmental Disabilities Act will expire in September of this year and there is no indication that the Reagan Administration will seek to have it renewed.

These are two of the direct assaults. Rights and programs, however, are also under an indirect assault through the budgetary process - especially the block grant concept. Under the block grant concept, the funding for a variety of different federal programs would be combined into a single lump sum. The choice of which programs within the block would be funded, and at what level of funding, would be up to the discretion of the local grantee. In the case of 94-142, the mandate to provide services has always been directly tied to the funding. The block grant concept would break this tie, and could amount to virtual de-regulation of the right to education, even if the law remained on the books!

In addition to the threat that the block grant concept poses to the right to education, the concept also poses an obvious threat to the funding of programs because there is no obligation to fund any particular program within the block. In the education block grant, funding for special education programs would be combined with funds for adult education, libraries and instructional materials, etc. There is no guarantee that any of the money would go for special education. The same is true for the block grant for social/health services. Funding under Title XX (ENCOR receives \$2,260,000 annually under Title XX) is to be combined with funding for other health services, rat control, venereal disease services, Vocational Rehabilitation, and other programs. Again, with no guarantee that any of the funding would necessarily go to services for people with disabilities.

In addition to the problems outlined above, the Reagan Administration, has proposed a 25% cut in the money allocated to the block grants. This could mean a loss of federal funds amounting to \$565,000 for ENCOR's programs, and over \$1,700,000 to education programs in the state.

THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID THESE CUT BACKS IS TO FIGHT BACK!

The fight back message is simple:

- *keep 94-142 and the Developmental Disabilities Act on the books,
- *no block grants - keep funding by program, and
- *no cut backs in funding for existing programs for people with disabilities.

Senator Edward Zorinsky
4327 Dirkson Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator James J. Exon
1407 Dirkson Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Hal Daub
1008 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Peter V. Domenici, Chairman
Senate Budget Committee
2317 Dirkson Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman James R. Jones, Chairman
House Budget Committee
203 Cannon Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Please carbon any letters to: ARC of Nebraska, 3100 N. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68521.

The problems with funding, however, and the dangers to programs, are not limited to Washington!! In spite of a flood of letters, from across the state, the Appropriations Committee of the Nebraska Legislature has voted to cut ENCOR's funding for continuation of existing programs, and NO FUNDING FOR EXPANDED PROGRAMS! As it stands now, ENCOR would receive \$306,806 less than they had requested, and \$347,763 less than the ARC of Nebraska had recommended as the amount to continue existing programs. No money has been allocated to expand programs and eliminate waiting lists!! IT IS TRULY FRIGHTENING TO IMAGINE HOW MUCH WOULD HAVE BEEN CUT FROM THE BUDGET IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE LETTERS OF SUPPORT!!! An appropriation of this level is probably going to mean a cut in services and/or clients and will certainly mean that waiting lists will continue to grow over the next year. AND, THE DANGER OF ADDITIONAL CUTS IS STILL A REALITY. In spite of the experience in the Appropriations Committee, letters of support must still continue to go to your local senator, and to the governor. The ARC office (348-9220) can provide you with name/address.

FLASH -- THE FORUM ON "GUARDIANSHIP AND ESTATE PLANNING" SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 23, HAS BEEN CANCELED SO THAT WE MAY PRESENT A DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACT OF THESE CUT-BACKS ON ENCOR'S SERVICES OVER THE NEXT YEAR. WILL CLIENTS BE CUT FROM SERVICES, AND WILL SERVICES BE CUT? THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED ON APRIL 23, BEGINING AT 7:30PM, AT THE FIRST FEDERAL OF LINCOLN BLDG (one block south of 42 & Center).

FINALLY, NOW MORE THAN EVER, THE ARC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT, AND YOU NEED THE CONTINUED ADVOCACY OF THE ARC. IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED, OR TAKEN OUT, OUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE DO SO TODAY. IF WE FAIL TO ACT, AND FAIL TO SUPPORT THE ARC WE WILL GET EXACTLY THE WORLD WE DESERVE, AND WILL REVERSE A GENERATION OF PROGRESS.

The Greater Omaha Association for Retarded
Citizens is a United Way Agency



When no one cares,
nothing changes.
Care.

Build the ARC
Association for Retarded
Citizens of Greater Omaha
3212 Dodge St.
Omaha, NE 68131

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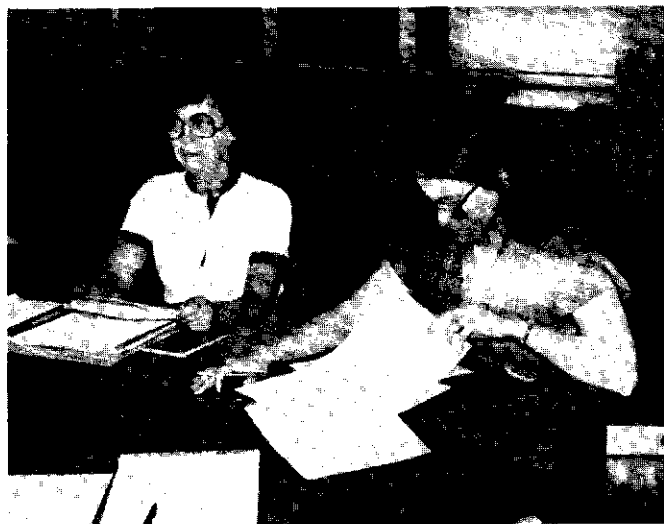
VOL. XIII NO. 5 The ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens) of Greater Omaha May 1981

TEAMS SATISFIED WITH MOST FINDINGS

The first reports have been published by the Residential and Vocational Monitoring Teams. In the first four months of 1981, four Monitoring Teams have been fielded by the ARC. The Residential Services Committee has three Residential Monitoring Teams. The Vocational Services Committee has one Vocational Monitoring Team.

The Monitoring Teams are designed to provide a community safeguard to the quality of services, and to construct the platform from which to advocate for change, if necessary.

The Residential Monitoring Teams visited two ENCOR residences in March. In both cases the Teams were pleased with the environments they found. Both settings were group homes housing three adults. In both cases, the Teams were impressed with the staff and their attitudes towards the residents. In both cases, there were minor structural problems which the Teams pointed out.



Elise Fowler and Cathy Palmer

These two visits represent only the beginning of the ARC monitoring effort. For the next on-site visit at least one member

Continued page 5

THE PENNHURST DECISION

By Dave Powell

Many people have asked about what the U.S. Supreme Court really said in their decision on the Pennhurst Case. The other often asked question is what impact the decision has on Nebraska. Though it is not a legislative matter, it seems appropriate to share the information with you.

The Pennhurst Case is a long standing Federal Court battle in Pennsylvania regarding the residents of the Pennhurst State School, a large institution serving mentally retarded persons. The Federal Judge hearing the matter had ruled that the residents of that facility have the right to appropriate treatment in a less restrictive environment and that the Pennhurst facil-

ity, by its very nature as a large remote institution, could not provide appropriate treatment. A substantial portion of his decision was based upon rights provided under the 1975 Federal Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights Act.

In essence the state appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court saying that the D.D. Bill of Rights Act was never intended by Congress to insure rights, but rather was a suggestion to the States about directions that they should undertake. Tied to their argument was the supporting evidence that Congress funded the D.D. Act only minimally not really adequately enough to insure the del-

Continued page 5



arc in action

ADVOCACY

Forums - Nearly 50 people attended the ARC forum on the impending budget cuts within ENCOR. ENCOR's Director, Kevin Casey, presented an overview of some of the options which are being considered in order to meet the income guidelines of the Appropriations Committee's allocation to Region VI's programs. Two proposals which will probably be presented to the ENCOR Governing Board, call for the elimination of nearly three dozen staff positions, and a freeze on new placements into residential and vocational services until the income picture improves. Kevin assured the audience that the budget proposal would be presented to the Advisory Committee(s) prior to submission to the ENCOR Governing Board.



ARC forum on ENCOR budget cuts

Speakers Bureau - GOARC speakers made seven presentations in April.

Representation - GOARC members on the North and South Douglas Advisory Committees were active in the review of the budget proposals for each of those areas.

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North Advisory Committee members

Vocational Brainstorming - The Vocational Brainstorming paper is available, free of charge, from the GOARC office.

Expanded Services Task Force - Now that it is clear that the level of appropriations will not support many, if any, new placements, the Expanded Services Task Force has split into two groups. One group will review residential concerns, the other will review vocational concerns. In the area of vocational concerns, the picture is somewhat brighter. GOARC's Vocational Services Committee may become involved in approaching the private sector in a variety of ways in an attempt to create vocational opportunities which ENCOR either cannot or will not create. More about this in the next GAZETTE. The residential concerns group is scheduled to meet on May 13, and the vocational group on May 14. For additional information, please call the office.

Governmental Affairs - We have been extremely active in the last month in attempting to insure that there is no further erosion of the budget allocation recommended by the State Legislature. Even at the level appropriated by the Legislature, the State's commitment to community programs will be only 7.4% greater than the 80-81 funding.

Educational Services - The Educational Services Committee is beginning the preparation of an I.E.P. training forum scheduled for late August.

FOR MEMBERS ONLY...

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The May Board meeting was held on May 5th.

At their May 5th meeting, the Executive Committee had reviewed and evaluated Dan Costello's performance as Executive Director. As a result of that review, the Executive Committee recommended a 13% salary increase. The Board approved by formal motion. The Board also approved Dan as the "registered agent" of the Association.

We have received a letter from the Legal Aid Society requesting that GOARC recommend an attorney interested in participating on the Legal Aid Board of Directors. A Committee composed of Debbie Vincent, Mike McGill, Gary Fischer, and Craig Fecker will secure a nomination.

The Residential Services Committee forwarded to the Board a proposal that GOARC become the sponsoring agency for a sitter/companion referral service. The idea first originated (in recent time for all of the "old timers" who might recognize some ideas out of the past!!!) with the Respite Training Grant which is centered in MCRI. The proposal would utilize the resources of the MCRI grant to develop a management system for a program that would recruit and train sitters and companions. These trained individuals would then be available on a registry to qualified families. The family in need of short term, in-home sitter or companion services would then contact the GOARC office and would be referred to an appropriate sitter/companion. The Board voted to approve the proposal - as a proposal - with the understanding that cost to the Association would be minimal (at least in the initial stages there will be heavy reliance on the Respite Grant), and that only GOARC members would be qualified for the services (and then upon payment of a \$10 registration fee). Another report will be delivered to the July Board meeting. The Board approved unanimously.

The Vocational Services Committee forwarded to the Board a motion that GOARC explore the possibility of developing a "sheltered apprenticeship" program to be used by private industry to train and transition to employment people with mental retardation. The objective of the proposal is to "by-pass" ENCOR's vocational programs and go directly to private industry. Eventually the success of such a program would directly benefit ENCOR's programs, but the original intention is to work cooperatively with the private sector through the Vocational Services Committee - rather than through an ENCOR program. The Board adopted the idea that we should see if such a program would be feasible.

The Board unanimously expressed their appreciation to Craig Fecker for his work as Board President over the past year.



MONITORING from page 1

of each team will review programs and resident training. Letters requesting comments on the quality of the residence have been forwarded to parents and other family members, teachers (if applicable), and to neighbors. This information will then be combined with the information furnished by the ENCOR management prior to the visit, and the observations at the time of the visit to provide a well-rounded description of the services provided. This process will be repeated every other month.

The first two residences were chosen at random. The second three have been chosen because of a monitoring request by parents or staff. Anyone who believes that conditions in an ENCOR residence require a monitoring visit should contact the ARC with the pertinent information.

The Vocational Monitoring Team has completed two monitoring visits. The first visit to the South ITC provided the impetus for the ARC Board of Directors to unanimously endorse a resolution calling for a new location for the South ITC. Representatives from the Vocational Services Committee continue to monitor the progress of the selection of the new site.

The report from the Bellevue ITC (the 2nd Vocational Monitoring Team site) will be available soon.

The following volunteers are involved in the Monitoring Teams, and deserve a round of applause for their dedication and work:

Jim Brentlinger, JoAnn Balcetis, Tom Houlihan, Louis Bottorff, Sally Swancutt, Jeff Gaillard, Elise Fowler, Richard Baron, Mary and Dave Egan, John and Mary Clark, Maggie Kenney, Cathy Palmer, Burt Christopherson, and Shirley Scritchfield.

PENNHURST from page 1

ivery of appropriate services which would guarantee the individual rights.

The U.S. Supreme Court, on a 6-3 decision said that the D.D. Act does not insure such rights and in the process overturned the lower court ruling. The Supreme Court went ahead to suggest to the U.S. Court of Appeals that they look at whether the U.S. Constitution or Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act provide such rights. So their decision was limited. They did not say that the right to appropriate treatment in the least restrictive setting may possibly be established elsewhere.

As for impact of the decision on Nebraska

we believe that it will be minimal. The rights that we in Nebraska have provided for citizens with mental retardation are not based upon the D.D. Act. In the Horacek lawsuit all of the arguments were based on principles from the U.S. Constitution. The agreement reached in 1975 in the Horacek lawsuit establishes those rights, again separate from the D.D. Act.

So ultimately, we lost the provisions of the D.D. Act. We are sorry that that happened, particularly for our friends in Pennsylvania. Put very simply, we lost one brick, one in which we had put some hope. But we still have the wall.

This article was reprinted from the April 24, Volume 12, No. 11, issue of the Legislative Action News.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This announcement is for your information. It does not constitute an endorsement of the Pioneers for Life group by the ARC.

The National Right to Life Convention will present some topics which may be of interest to GOARC members. "Infanticide - A Growing Legal & Medical Concern" and "Genetics & Genocide Before Birth - A Nation's Death Wish?" will be presented on Friday, June 19th. "The Drive to Eliminate the Handicapped Unborn- Legal & Medical Aspects of Prenatal Screening" and "Death - The Intrusion of Technology & of the Law" are scheduled for Saturday, June 20th. Carol Kramper, GOARC member, suggests that for more information persons should contact: Omaha Pioneers for Life, P.O. Box 14261, Omaha, NE, 68114, (402) 895-5249.

The West Branch Y.M.C.A. "Fun 'n' Fitness" program is a 6 week summer session for mentally handicapped youth. It includes such things as swimming, arts and crafts, gym activity and health education. If you are interested and would like more information please call Chris Hunt at 393-3700.

Clint Wiskus (18 months old), son of Duane and Joyce Wiskus, passed away on May 4, 1981. Duane and Joyce completed Pilot Parent training in February of this year. Our thoughts are with them.

If you have an ANNOUNCEMENT you'd like in the GAZETTE call Mary at 348-9220. We must receive information one month in advance of the activity.

gazette



Vol. XIII No. 6 The ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens) of Greater Omaha June 1981

OVERRIDE - BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

As most of our readers know, people with mental retardation had a close call in this year's Legislature. After a struggle for an adequate level of appropriations for community programs, the Governor vetoed \$777,000 of those funds, and it was not until the last motion of the last day of the session that we knew that the veto would be overridden.

The ARC in Omaha, and ARC's around the State, together with the State Association worked long and hard in support of the override, but the real credit belongs to the hundreds and hundreds of people who wrote letters, made phone calls, sent telegrams, and visited with their Senators. If it had not been for you, our work would have been in vain.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE EFFORT. YOU HAVE BEEN, AND ARE, THE BACKBONE OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL RETARDATION.

We have included a list of Senators who voted in support of the override. If you recognize a name, would you please drop him or her a short note of thanks.

NO VOTES (12) - Barrett, Cullen, Haberman, Hefner, Lamb, Maresh, R. Peterson, Remmers, Rumery, Von Mindon, Wagner, Warner. NOT VOTE (7) - Beyer, Chambers (absent), Clark, Fenger, Goll (absent), L. Johnson (absent), Pirsch (absent). YES VOTES (30) - Beutler, Burrows, Carsten, Chronister, Cope, DeCamp, Dworak, Fitzgerald, Fowler, Goodrich, Higgins, Hoagland, V. Johnson, Kahle, Kilgarin, Koch, Kremer, Labedz, Landis, S. Marsh, Marvel, Newell, Nichol, H. Peterson, Schmit, Sieck, Stoney, Vickers, Wesley, Wiitala.

By Dan Costello

OPS BOARD STUDIES CONTRACTING

MADONNA SCHOOL ADVOCATES DEFEND STUDENT RIGHTS

By Joan Searcy

The Omaha Public School Board of Education voted on June 24, 1981 to place a freeze on private school parent request special contracts. To us, this means that the children at Madonna School presently under contract will continue to be contracted for one more year while Omaha Public Schools studies the need for this arrangement; contracts for new pupils will not be granted simply because the parents request it; only if OPS makes the decision.

There were a number of issues discussed in the contracting dispute. For example, is contracting the purchase of a service designed to meet students needs which could not be met in current OPS programs, or is contracting simply the use of public money

in "private schools"? Is contracting done at the parents' whim with little consideration, or are contracts generally the product of testing, evaluations, and a determination by a multi-disciplinary team? The issue of compliance with state and federal law was discussed, as was the issue of cost of services.

The issue was a good experience that brought us all together in a new way. It made us more aware of Madonna Schools' responsibility to keep the community informed of the work of the school and particularly the civil rights of handicapped people.

It was edifying for the teachers of Madonna to hear the parents publicly testify to the growth and development of their

Continued on page 5



arc in action

ADVOCACY

EXPANDED SERVICES TASK FORCE - The ESTF had two meetings in May. The first was held to explore residential alternatives to ENCOR programs; the second to do the same for vocational programs.

It doesn't appear that the residential scene holds much hope for community waiting lists. (Those who are put on residential lists are considered "emergency" need -- there is formally no waiting list for those who need residential services but are not considered "emergency".) Even though there are at least two private service providers scheduled to begin some type of residential services in the Omaha area in the coming months, it doesn't look as though they will have any impact on waiting lists.

On the vocational side, however, there are a number of hopeful signs. Within ENCOR there is a strong movement to re-vamp the vocational system so that there will be more movement, more interesting and challenging jobs for those who may not move, and a higher degree of communication with the business community. The ARC Vocational Services Comm. has been working on both the existing vocational facilities and future vocational innovations.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS - The Legislature passed LB-389 - a piece of legislation that the state and local ARC's backed - which provides for a pilot project allowing the Dept. of Public Welfare to give cash payments to handicapped individuals living independently, and to families with a handicapped child living at home. The money will be used to assist the individuals or families in maintaining an independent status.

Because of the numerous questions that were posed during the appropriations process this year, the Legislature has called

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for an interim study of all of the regional programs for retardation, alcoholism, and aging. Senator Higgins of Omaha will sit on the Health and Welfare Committee charged with the investigative responsibilities.

PERSONAL ADVOCACY - The ARC answered 45 requests for information or assistance in May.

Three speaking engagements were filled this month: Dan Costello spoke to a Creighton University psychology class on philosophy, Janet Ansell gave a presentation on Pilot Parents to the Dept. of Public Welfare, and Ona Mayer spoke to the staff of the Salvation Army Camp for Exceptional People on Recreational Activities and Working with People with Mental Retardation.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The following Public Service Announcements and News Releases were distributed in June: (PSA's) Pilot Parent Program, Speakers Bureau, Softball Tournament; (NR's) Pilot Parent Program, Election of the New Board, and Softball Tournament.

FAMILY SUPPORT

PILOT PARENTS - 4 referrals and 18 requests for information were received in May. Two presentations on the program were made to students in Child Development classes at Central High School.

The annual Mother's Salad Luncheon was held May 6th at the South Park Apt. Clubhouse. Margaret Moreford, the Executive Director of Nebraska Special Olympics, was the guest speaker.

A great deal of time was spent this month to complete the New Pilot Parent Directory, to establish a new calling committee and to prepare for the June 5 meeting. Thanks to Janie Grimm, Lila Schafer, Fran Porter, and Shirley Dean for their assistance with the projects.

GOYARC Saturday, May 9th, 15 of us attended "Best Boy", the movie that was sponsored by GOARC at the UN Med Center.

On Saturday, May 23, 6 of us visited the

RESPITE CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

Sponsored by: The Greater Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens (GOARC) and the MCRI
Statewide Respite Training Project

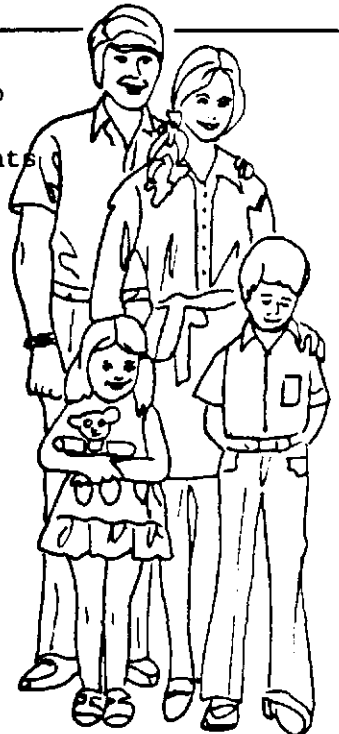
WHEN: July 27, 28, 29, 30 7-10 p.m.

COST: Free,
babysitting is also
available at this
site for participants
children

WHERE: Meyer Children's Rehabilitation
Institute - 444 South 44th St.
Room 1020 - Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Respite means to take a break. All parents need an occasional break from their children to relax, attend to business or personal needs. Getting this time off can be very difficult for parents of persons with developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism or mental retardation. Caring for these persons often requires training.

This workshop will give you the training required to meet the special needs of these persons. Those completing the two day training program will receive a certificate from the Statewide Respite Training Project. They will then be referred to parents who need a short break. Respite Providers will be paid for their services.



The respite care training program will include the following topics:

- Role and responsibilities of respite providers
- First aid/medications/seizures/home safety
- Positioning and handling/feeding techniques
- Normalization
- Behavior management
- Overview of developmental disabilities

In addition, a one-half day practicum will be required where you will work with a handicapped person while under supervision. The practicum can be arranged to fit your schedule. This can be a great opportunity to fulfill a class requirement or plan a special studies credit, get some first hand experience with people who are handicapped and earn some extra money. If you would like additional information, call: Janet Ansell 348-9220
Maggie Kenney 559-6406

If you are interested in this training program we'd like to hear from you. Fill in the registration form below, tear off, and send it in to us. Thank you.

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I wish to attend the Respite Training Program on July 27, 28, 29, 30 I understand that I will also be required to complete a one-half day practicum.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ AGE _____ I am interested but unable to attend on these dates

Please return this registration form to: Janet Ansell
GOARC
3212 Dodge
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

This workshop is funded by the
Nebraska Governor's Planning Council
for Developmental Disabilities



ARC FIRST ANNUAL MEN'S SLOW PITCH TOURNAMENT

August 29th & 30th
Seymour Smith Fields

The ARC First Annual Men's Slow Pitch Tournament is an open class, double elimination tournament designed to accomodate 40 teams.

Entry fee is \$100. This includes umpires, trophies, OSA fee, and balls. If the team wishes they may participate in a special Tournament Raffle designed for teams who would rather sell 10 books of raffle tickets than pay \$100 cash.

Trophies will be awarded to the top five teams. The first place trophy is 48" tall; second place, 42"; third, 36"; fourth, 30", fifth, 24".

Proceeds generated from entry fees will be used to fund the programs of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha.

WHAT IS THE ARC?

The ARC of Greater Omaha (GOARC) is a coalition of parents, interested citizens, and professionals that exists to insure that people with mental retardation, and their families, can live their lives in an environment of human dignity and are treated with respect that is due all people. The ARC maintains four program areas - Advocacy, Family Support, Public Education, and Volunteerism - in order to achieve those goals. The work of the ARC insures that people with mental retardation and their families will continue to receive quality, comprehensive services in the years to come, and creates a climate of positive public awareness about the condition of mental retardation.

REGISTRATION FORM Entry fee is due by 5:00 August 28th.

Team Name _____

Manager _____ Address _____

Phone _____

_____ We would like to enter by selling Tournament Raffle tickets (10 books)

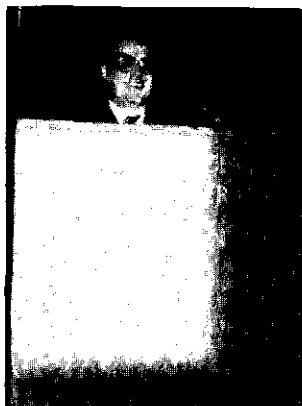
_____ We will forward entry fee

_____ Check enclosed

_____ We cannot enter the tournament, but would be interested in providing volunteer scorekeepers

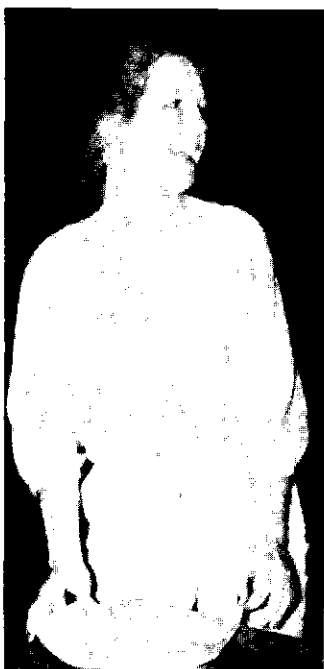
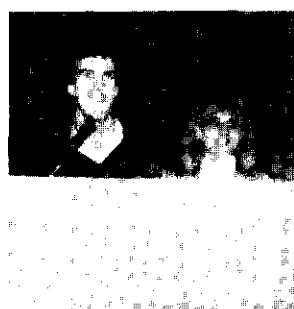
RETURN TO: Mary Magnuson, c/o GOARC, 3212 Dodge St., Omaha, NE, 68131.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ARC.



The Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha
requests the honour of your presence at its

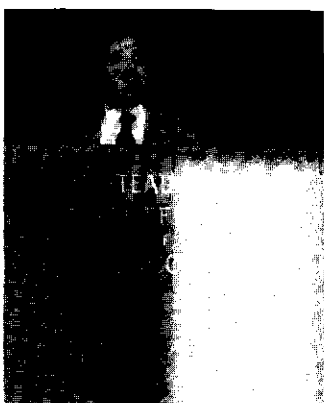
ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT



GOYARC MEMBER - 1980 PLANNING COMMITTEE
PROJECT II - NANCY LOOMIS
PILOT PARENTS - KIRK & DIXIE MAHONEY
ADVOCATE - GARY FISCHER
VOLUNTEER(S) - PAUL FEILMANN & TOM HOULIHAN
EMPLOYEE/ENCOR - MARY LORKOVIC
EMPLOYEE/SCHOOL - JOANN BALCETIS
MEDIA - K.F.A.B.
ORGANIZATION - NORTHWESTERN BELL JAYCEES
PARENTS - MIKE & JOAN REILLY
OUTSTANDING PROGRESS/YOUTH - MEGAN REILLY
JUNE VANCE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE - MARIE CISPER
RAY LOOMIS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - SHIRLEY DEAN

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Swing for the Retarded
1980 Honey Sunday Planning Group



PICTURES (L)Top to bottom: Tom Kodera, Becky Shoultz, Dave Schroeder, Dena Lauderville. (R)Top to bottom: Gary Fischer, Paul Feilmann & Janet Ansell, Shirley Dean, Linda Esterling. (C) Pat and Mike Linn.



EDITORIAL

The following testimony was presented by Dan Costello to the School Board at the open hearing on the OPS Budget, Friday, June 19th.

Mr. President, and members of the Board.

I am the Executive Director of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Greater Omaha.

I would like to thank this Board for its continued support of special education, especially as its responsibility for these programs has been broadened by recent law, and for its continued support for students whose needs for educational opportunities may exceed the capabilities of current OPS programs.

I must also, however, express my concern that we not lose sight of the fact that special education programs do not represent a frill, or an extra in the education budget. They represent the fundamental and basic right of all handicapped students to an equal education. They are the core of the educational opportunity for handicapped students, in the same manner that the basic curriculum forms the core of the educational opportunity for non-handicapped students.

I raise this issue in the context of suggestions both here (this evening) and in recent newscasts, that some programs for non-handicapped students might be cut in order to support special education. The implication, of course, is that if it were not for these special programs, we would be able to keep summer school, for example.

I urge that we not forget that special education cannot be isolated and used as a scapegoat for other budget cuts.

Special education is special in name only.

Handicapped students have an equal footing in statute and morality with all other students in the educational system, and they cannot and should not be used as an excuse for any changes in the curriculum for non-handicapped students.

I hope that you will continue to support both the letter and the spirit of education law.

CONTRACTING from page 1

children in our program. It was encouraging to parents to see Madonna Council and other Board members and other community leaders show their support by attending public meetings. Only OPS Board members Gay Goodrich and Sandra Kostos stood firmly opposed.

Joan Searcy is the Community Coordinator at Madonna School.

etc., etc., etc., etc.,

ABLEDATA is a national computer service designed to provide information to parents on cost, use, and availability of prostheses and other special aids and equipment, that otherwise might be available only through trial and error. ABLEDATA may help speed delivery, provide information on equipment use, and provide comparative pricing information when available. Additional information is available through the PROJECT STAFF at MCRI. Contact Pat Moore, 559-6406.

When Sherry Noley leaves for England she'll be leaving behind more than good friends and memories. It seems that daughter Kim's Social Security will be cut after Sherry departs from these golden shores. To help offset this great loss of income, Vard Johnson, Dan Lynch, and Dr. Frank Menolaschino will be seeking contributions for her expenses in England. If you would care to make a donation, please send your check to Vard Johnson, 2707 Fontenelle Blvd., Omaha, 68104. (Make checks payable to Sherry Noley). Oh, and if you're wondering how to contact Sherry once she's gone, write c/o Harry Anderson, 17 Princeway, Tynemouth, North Shields, Tyne a Wear, NE30 4NE.

Want to challenge Mayor Mike Boyle to a friendly game of Space Invaders? You'll get your chance during the 10-day Grand Opening of the new home video equipment store the Bijou, July 16-26. For \$1 you can play a celebrity or compete for top game of the day prizes -- and all those dollars will be donated to GOARC.

Developmental Maximation Unit (DMU) at the County Hospital. This group felt that they would like to have more contact with DMU in the future and possibly include some residents in our activities.

A trip to "Farmstead" on Sunday, May 31, was planned to prepare the group for their future campout. Committees were set up and the campsite was chosen. While we waited for our chance to view some of the 65 acres we watched a horse get his "shoes". Seventeen persons attended this activity.

FUNDRAISING

We would like to thank the following people and businesses for their generous donations to the ARC in the past month: John Walburn Henry Flood Robert, Jr., Mr. T's Waterbeds, Firehouse Dinner Theater, Westgate 66 Service Station, J.C. Penney's, and the Richman Gordman Stores.

The ARC Mens Slow Pitch SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT is for Men's Teams that can't get enough of a good thing. When the season ends you can still have a chance to prove that you are the best in your field--AUGUST 29th & 30th, Seymour Smith Field, 5 BIG Trophies. Call 348-9220/Mary for details. (IF YOU PLANNED ON TOURNAMENT PLAY THIS SUMMER PLAN ON THIS ONE - We need your support too).

VOLUNTEERS

By Mary Magnuson

GOARC's Annual Awards Nite drew an impressive crowd despite last minute concerns that the Mayor's Election would preempt any such celebration.

Craig Fecker, 1980-81 President of the Board of Directors, gave his opening remarks and welcome to over 200 members and guests of the Association at First Federal of Lincoln on May 12th.

Most of the Awards Presentations were made by members of the 1980-81 Board of Directors. However, there were three awards that were bestowed by honored guests. Don Claasen, Chairman of the ENHSA Governing Board, delivered the ENCOR Employee of the Year Award to Mary Lorkovic; Dave Schroeder, Hartman School Teacher Leader, made an outstanding presentation of the Teacher of the Year Award to JoAnn Balcetis; and member Bob Gehrman joined us to honor the Northwestern Bell Jaycees as the Organization of the Year.



Dave Schroeder and JoAnn Balcetis.

During intermission, members elected the 1981-82 Board of Directors (see article on page 6), door prizes were handed out, and members and friends had a chance to get reacquainted and catch up on old times.

Door prizes were provided by KEN'S FLORIST OF MILLARD (potted mum plant); HENRY FIELD GARDEN CENTER OF MILLARD, EARL MAY OF MILLARD AND EARL MAY OF BELLEVUE (geraniums - total 22).



Members study ballots.

Food was provided partly through KAUFMANN PASTRY SHOPPE (half sheet cake), THE SWISS COLONY CHEESE STORE (cheese and beefstick), HINKY DINKY OF MILLARD (a variety of good things); and partly by GOARC "chefs".

Entertainment was provided by the Town Criers, two very professional people who know how to make people laugh and have a good time.

Thank you everyone for a relaxing, enjoyable evening. (Sometimes we all need one.)

ELECTION RESULTS

By Mary Magnuson

GOARC members elected the 1981-82 Board of Directors May 12th at Awards Nite. The new members are indicated with an (*).

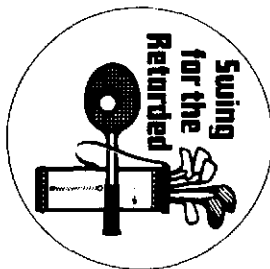
PRESIDENT - Bonnie Shoultz
1st VICE PRESIDENT - Mike McGill
2nd VICE PRESIDENT - Henry Flood Robert*
SECRETARY - Paula Hyland*
TREASURER - Tom Kodera
MEMBER AT LARGE - Patty Smith*
IMMED. PAST PRESIDENT - Craig Fecker

JoAnn Balcetis, Neva Bauman*, Lewis Bottorff, Jim Brentlinger*, Burt Christopher-son, John Clark, Jack DeMay, Margaret Down- ing*, Linda Esterling*, Sister Evangeline, Paul Feilmann, Gary Fischer*, Don Grimm, Tom Houlihan, Thomas Lee*, Mike Linn, Joyce McCreary*, Fran Porter, Ollie Rector, Lois Rood*, Shirley Scritchfield, Debbie Vinson* John Walburn, and Bill Wills.

Board meetings are held on the third Tues- day of every month. They are open to the General Membership and to all interested parties. For information on meeting times and place call the office - 348-9220.

The Syracuse University Training Institute for Human Service Planning will begin pub- lication of its newsletter, TIPS, in July. TIPS will deal with issues with which the Institute is identified, such as new devel- opments in the normalization principle; service quality and evaluation; moral and values issues and their role in human serv- ices, etc. TIPS will serve as a vehicle for information-sharing of common concerns or interests, highlight positive develop- ments, as well as disclose and analyze per- versions, AND function as a support mechan- ism for people in the field. Wolf Wolfens- berger (GOARC member) is co-editor. To subscribe send \$20 per individual, or \$30 per agency, to TIPS Editor, Syracuse Univ- ersity Training Inst., 305 South Crouse Av- enue, Syracuse, NY, 13210.

This issue compliments of Swing for the Retarded



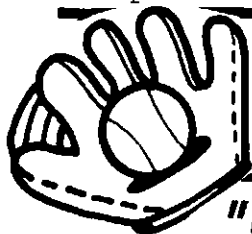
SHIRLEY DEAN
R.M.C.O.R.
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GOARC
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Men's Slow Pitch
ARC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
AUGUST 29 & 30

"COMING UP"

- 1 - ARC Vocational Services Committee Mtg.
- 2 - Special ENHSA Board Meeting
- 7 - Executive Committee Meeting
FUNDRAISING Committee Meeting
- 10 - Mother's Coffee/Head Start
- 11 - GOYARC Campout/Farmstead
- 12 - GOYARC Campout
- 13 - Pilot Parent Program Picnic/Cooper Farm
ARC Educational Services Committee Mtg.
- 15 - ENHSA Board of Directors Meeting
- 17 - Project II Meeting
- 21 - ARC Board of Directors Meeting
- 22 - ENCOR Human & Legal Rights Committee Mtg.
- 23 - ARC Administrative Services Comm. Mtg.
- 27 - ARC Residential Services Committee Mtg.
RESPITE TRAINING/Sitter Companion Project
- 28 - Mayor's Committee on the Handicapped Mtg.
RESPITE TRAINING
- 29 - RESPITE TRAINING
- 30 - RESPITE TRAINING